Reviewer’s report

Title: SNAI1 Expression: A Rare Event In Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma Associated With Features Of Poor Prognosis

Version: 1 Date: 22 October 2009

Reviewer: Takashi T Takata

Reviewer’s report:

In this paper, authors examined the expression of SNAI1 and compared with clinicopathological parameters, E-cadherin, FAK and p63 expression in 46 oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) cases by immunohistochemistry. For the immunohistochemical analysis, authors characterized an antibody (Suppl. Fig. 1). By using this antibody, authors found that SNAI1 was positive in 10 of 46 OSCC cases and SNAI1 positive cases showed poor prognosis. However, SNAI1 expression was not correlated with E-cadherin, FAK and p63 expression. In two cases with sarcomatoid component, SNAI1(+)/FAK(+)/E-cadherin(-)/p63(-) phenotype was observed. Authors concluded that SNAI1 expression is rare in OSCC, but SNAI1 expression can indicate the presence of a sarcomatoid component. Although so far there are many studies on Snail related EMT in cancer, this paper contains interesting results. As SNAI1 expression is rare, authors should increase the number of cases and check the detailed analysis of sarcomatoid component in OSCC. I think two cases are not enough to demonstrate your hypothesis. Overall, I feel that this paper contains interesting information which merit publication, but authors should perform additional experiments.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests