Reviewer's report

Title: Autologous anti-SOX2 Antibody Responses Reflect Intensity but not Frequency of Antigen Expression in Small Cell Lung Cancer

Version: Date: 14 May 2014

Reviewer: Jackeline Agorreta

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
- The quantification method for the immunohistochemical staining should be revised. The H-score method that combines intensity and extension of the staining in a single variable is more accurate and informative. This approach may help to find a good correlation between SOX2 expression and antibodies in serum.
- Did authors measure SOX2 antibodies in sera from healthy controls?
- Since the conclusions of this manuscript are mostly based on immunohistochemical analysis, exhaustive controls of the technique should be performed. Moreover, quality of images needs to be adjusted.
- Stage should be stated according to the UICC 7th TNM staging.
- The clinical and biological rationale of these findings is not well-defined. Functional studies would help to clarify the biological role of SOX2 in SCLC.

Minor Essential Revisions
- Bibliography should be updated with additional references regarding SOX2 and SCLC (i.e Int J Clin Exp Pathol. 2013 Nov 15;6(12):2846-54).

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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