Reviewer's report

Title: Inclusion of MUC1 (Ma695) in a panel of immunohistochemical markers is useful for distinguishing between endocervical and endometrial mucinous adenocarcinoma.

Version: 1 Date: 16 August 2005

Reviewer: Patricia A Shaw

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors add to the literature supporting the use of immunohistochemical panels in distinguishing carcinomas of endocervical or endometrial origin. Their study differs from previous reports by including only an uncommon histological type of carcinoma of the endometrium, mucinous type. The endocervical tumours were of "typical type", with a mixture of endometrioid and mucinous differentiation. A panel of antibodies including MUC1, p16, ER, PR, and vimentin, was selected, with MUC1 being the sole novel antibody used in addressing this issue. All antibodies demonstrated statistically different results and therefore were all considered useful in distinguishing between tumours of endocervical and endometrial origin.

The manuscript is well-written, and addresses the key issues, and their findings include some statistical support.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Page 2, line 12 - correct "most majority"
Page 7, line 13 - cases of endocervical carcinoma selected for this study were said to be of "typical" type - did the presence or absence of apical and cytoplasmic staining correlate with the presence of intracytoplasmic mucin?

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.