Reviewer's report

**Title:** Human papillomavirus-mediated carcinogenesis and HPV-associated oral and oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma. Part 1: Human papillomavirus-mediated carcinogenesis

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 16 February 2010

**Reviewer:** Jonathan McHugh

**Reviewer's report:**

This article is Part #1 (of anticipate two parts) of a review on HPV mediated oral/oropharyngeal carcinoma. Part #1 reviews HPV-mediated carcinogenesis in general. This review is relevant and well written.

**Major compulsory revisions:** None

**Minor essential revisions:**
1. Delete "(malignant neoplasm)" in the first line.
2. Correct the spelling of "role"; at least three places.
3. In the first line in the first paragraph under "Human papillomavirus (HPV)-induced carcinogensis" section it would be preferable to replace "it is probable that" with "High risk."
4. In the same paragraph as above, the last sentence is confusing and needs to be clarified.
5. The first line in paragraph 3 under "Human papillomavirus (HPV)-induced carcinogenesis" is confusing and needs to be rewritten.
6. Please expand on the known function of PDZ-ligand domain as it relates to carcinogenesis.
7. In the last paragraph before Conclusions, please expand on the third epigenetic event. How exactly HPV plays a role should be discussed.
8. In the conclusion, disease should be replaces with process or some equivalent term.
9. The figure needs to be more descriptive indicated how the various processes relate. In other words, one should be able to look at the figure alone and figure out how these process relate and interact and that is not the current status of the figure.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published
**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.