Reviewer's report

Title: Candidate pathways and genes for prostate cancer: a meta-analysis of gene expression data

Version: 2 Date: 16 December 2008

Reviewer: Wei D Zhong

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Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. Integrin is an important adhesion molecule, which mediates the interaction between cells and extracellular matrix. In this study, the authors demonstrated the changes of integrin during the transformation from normal prostate tissue to prostate cancer at the early stage.

2. For prostate cancer, there has been no sufficient evidence to "the hypothesis of collagen", which need the authors' further investigation in order to better explain.

3. Microarray technology is an effective way to assess certain genome. The main advantages of it are accuracy and repeatability. I suggest that the control analysis should be combined with Meta analysis.

4. As expected in the application of clinical medicine, I suggest that the author should add the clinical and pathological information of patients in this study. Although the number of patients are small, but can be used for a trend investigation.

5. In the discussion, the authors should explain the significance of down-regulated genes with the combination of "the hypothesis of collagen", not only focus on the number of up-regulated or down-regulated genes.

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