Reviewer's report

**Title:** Soluble EpCAM levels in ascites correlate with positive cytology and neutralize catumaxomab activity in vitro

**Version:** 4  
**Date:** 24 March 2015

**Reviewer:** Narendra v Sankpal

**Reviewer's report:**

Authors have improved manuscript. Few corrections in text and figures recommended. Need not to be re-reviewed.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

**Abstract**

**Introduction:**

1. First sentence: please add …..epithelial tumour cells
2. Second line: detected as soluble/secreted (sEpCAM). Delete word isoform.
3. Results: pl correct to: Our ELISA showed a high specificity for secreted EpCAM.

**Introduction**

Pape 4 correct underlined: second paragraph. EpCAM is a tumour-associated membrane marker overexpressed…

**Result section**

2. Page 11: Last sentence of development of ELISA… …necrosis sEpCAM levels significantly decreased (data not shown).
3. Page 12: delete last word. Analysis of neutralizing effect of sEpCAM on catumaxomab activity
4. Figure 4: add full words in figures when space available, example (co, cat) instead abbreviations.
5. Correct marker: figure 1. EpEX would be of size 30-34kDa instead 40-kDa, pl correct size marker based on gel type and running buffer.
6. Figure 2A: Capitalize first letter of words.
7. Correct misspelled words through all text: example, neutralizing

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

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.