Reviewer’s report

Title: Prognostic significance of multiple kallikreins in high-grade astrocytoma

Version: 2 Date: 7 June 2015

Reviewer: Michael Karsy

Reviewer’s report:

The authors present a laboratory analysis of various kallikreins in high-grade glioma as they relate to patient survival. The expressions of six different kallikreins (KLK1, KLK6, KLK7, KLK8, KLK9 and KLK10) were quantified in a tissue microarray of 60 grade IV and 8 grade III astrocytomas. Analysis of patient survival by Kaplan-Meier survival analysis and Cox proportional hazards modeling was performed. Overall, the authors performed a very reasonable analysis, with good use of methodology as well as explanation of their findings in the context about what is known regarding kallikreins. Their findings of poorer prognosis with greater expression of individual kallikreins are novel and interesting in high-grade gliomas. New findings regarding the role of KLK9 may also be of interest for further study.

Major compulsory revisions
1. None

Minor essential revisions
1. Include cities and states for manufacturers of various reagents discussed in methods section
2. X axis labels for figure 3A and B are cutoff

Discretionary revisions
1. One comment is in regards to the combination of grade III and IV gliomas. It may be interesting to factor glioma grade into some of the survival and multivariate analysis in order to control for this variable. There are “some” survival differences between these types of pathologies.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests