Reviewer's report

Title: Plectin as a prognostic marker in non-metastatic oral squamous cell carcinoma

Version: 2 Date: 19 May 2015

Reviewer: Michael Büttner

Reviewer's report:

First of all, this is a highly valuable article and a great contribution to the field of HN oncology.

The introduction and discussion are concise and intelligently written, the MM section straightforward and the results are of course important.

From my reviewers point of view there are two points omitted in the manuscript but which would be very instructive to the reader. The journal's guidelines force me to stratify them into "major compulsory revisions" which may sound too harsh.

Major compulsory revisions:

- it is not mentioned which is the study design. It was not clear to me whether the samples were analyzed retrospectively or prospectively.
- it seems that "normal tongue mucosa tissue was obtained from tissue adjacent to the tumor tissue" (quotation from line 136-137). It is not further mentioned for what these samples are used even though it seems obvious that healthy tissue is necessary as a control group. Can further informations be given in the MM section.

Minor essential revisions:

- the list of abbreviations is not complete.
- some acronyms are not explained in parenthesis (for example HNSCC; even though it is obvious to the reader what it means it should formally be explained when mentioning it the first time).

Looking forward to reviewing the article again.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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