Reviewer’s report

Title: Krüppel-like factor 4 expression in oral carcinoma cells and hypermethylation at the gene promoter

Version: 0 Date: 18 Dec 2015

Reviewer: Matthias Dettmer

Reviewer’s report:

The authors assess levels KLF4 in oral SCC cell lines on mRNA and protein level. They demonstrate that KLF4 promoter hypermethylation is associated with KLF4 expression on protein and mRNA levels in some oral scc cells.

Since HaCat cells are immortalized normal keratinocytes, I suggest to normalize the expression to these cells with DDCT method and set the KLF4 expression in these cells as 1. May use log scale since tumor cells are very much down compared to HaCat.

In Results, promoter hypermethylation in carcinoma cells: try to be more clear. Its a bit confusing, for example: M (methylated without unmethylation). Its mehtylated, or do I miss s.th.?

Conclusions: I would conclude that this might be a mechanism of oral scc progression in some tumors as you demonstrated it in some cell lines.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I am able to assess the statistics.

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published.

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