Reviewer’s report

Title: An in vitro study of the effect of 5-ALA-mediated photodynamic therapy on oral squamous cell carcinoma

Version: 0 Date: 22 Apr 2020

Reviewer's report:

It is great honor for me to make review on this interesting paper. I do appreciate to authors for their intent to make big investigation and research. I have got few remarks so far. The tables do not show all groups times and findings. So we could not compare all times and groups. The labels should be simplified, data should be more comprehensive. So statistics could not be evaluated. Could you please add more tables and data.

In the section discussion on the line 15 * reference 8 does not match. Please check the reference number 8.

It is not clear what is the OSCC degree of differentiation in your paper? Could you please give more explanation on cytology? Could we have the thickness of OSCC culture of your study?

The conclusion is so strong with regards to the data you provided. That is so pro PDT. However, the literature you must add and discuss in your paper should be Rosin, Flávia Cristina Perillo, et al. "Photodynamic Therapy Mediated by 5-aminolevulinic Acid Promotes the Upregulation and Modifies the Intracellular Expression of Surveillance Proteins in Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma." Photochemistry and photobiology 95.2 (2019): 635-643. This novel study says that within 5-ALA-mediated PDT Bel-2, p-Akt, p-mTOR and iNOS were up regulated in neoplastic cells of OSCC, suggesting an activation of anti-apoptosis and cell proliferation pathways. This fact must be considered in the establishment of PDT protocols for OSCC treatment.

thank you

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

No

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.

No
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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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