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: 03 May 2020

Reviewer's report:

Thank you very much for presenting a study of contemporary interest. The experiment has been carefully designed and conducted. In my opinion, presentation of the study findings could be further improved.

Title: Does not accurately reflect the reported study. Reported research studies the effect of 5-ALA mediated photodynamic therapy in laboratory conditions using cell cultures. This is an in vitro study and results can only be extrapolated into in vivo

Background:
This is well written. However, the aim of the study as mentioned in the last sentence does not clearly define the research question.

Methods and Results:
I think there is lack of clarity and cohesion in the way the experiment has been described. Strongly recommend using a figure/table to describe the different groups clearly to help reader to follow the results. Table 4 shows Groups I, II, III, IV but there is no definition of these in the Methods. Overall, the manuscript will improve significantly if the authors could be more explicit in their description of the experiment performed and present the steps in logical order.

Discussion: Some statements need to be supported by references.

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.

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.

Yes
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

**Declaration of competing interests**
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