Reviewer's report

Title: Overexpression of IL-32 is a novel prognostic factor in patients with localized clear cell renal cell carcinoma

Version: 2 Date: 20 June 2011

Reviewer: Robert Grubb

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The authors are looking the effect of IL-32 staining status on RFS, DFS and OS from RCC after nephrectomy. This is not clearly stated as a hypothesis in the introduction or methods.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
Yes. A few questions
- Are these patients consecutive?
- What factors went into the multivariate model? State this clearly.

3. Are the data sound?
No concerns with the data.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
- Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
The introduction and discussion are well-referenced.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
- I would like to know if the patients are consecutive.
- Was IL-32 selected from a panel or was it studied alone?
- The lack of a clear mechanism and the conflicting data on whether IL-32 is carcinogenic or protective make the strong findings somewhat questionable.
- The authors should explain why none of the traditional prognostic factors such as stage, tumor size were associated with RFS, DFS or OS even in univariate analysis. This is very odd.
- What is the follow-up time? Mean/median?
- Figures and tables are appropriate.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
well referenced
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Appropriately titled and abstracted
9. Is the writing acceptable?
   yes. Few grammatical or stylistic errors

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests