Reviewer’s report

Title: Clusterin transcript variants expression in thyroid tumour: a potential marker of malignancy?

Version: 4  Date: 11 November 2014

Reviewer: Massimo Tommasino

Reviewer’s report:

In this manuscript, the authors have analyzed a significant number of thyroid specimens, including normal tissue as well as benign and malignant lesions, for the expression of two variant isoforms of Clusterin (CLU), CLU1 and CLU2. CLU is a ubiquitous multifunctional factor involved in carcinogenic processes, interfering apoptosis. The authors provide evidence that the both isoforms are over-expressed in malignant lesions. Interestingly, quantitative RT-PCR experiments revealed that the ratio between the isoforms strongly increases in favour of CLU2 with the severity of the disease. Based on these findings, they propose determination of the CLU2 and CLU1 mRNA ratio as diagnostic marker for thyroid benign and malignant lesions.

The study has been well performed and the conclusions are fully justified by the presented findings. Overall the study deserves publication.

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