

Reviewer's report

Title: KSHV/HHV-8 and HIV infection in Kaposi sarcoma development

Version: 2 Date: 2 January 2007

Reviewer: Thomas Schulz

Reviewer's report:

General

As in the first version of this review, the histopathology and immunohistochemistry sections of the review are strong, whereas the sections on the molecular biology of KSHV are less so. Although some of my major points have been addressed (nos. 1-3,5 in my review) others have not. I still feel that the second half of the review (histogenesis, cytogenesis) should be published, but that the review suffers from the lower quality of the sections on KSHV.

I can understand that the authors need to say something on KSHV in the context of discussing KS, but why mention some, but not other details? For example, why mention only the two KSHV micrRNAs located close to the kaposin gene, while not mentioning the other ten? Why discuss vGCR, but not the other potential oncogenes? The figure is good, in that it illustrates some of the key concepts in KSHV pathogenesis, i.e. interference with intracellular checkpoints and indirect mechanisms such as cytokine release, but this concept is not really discussed in the text.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
see above

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
none of the typos that I mentioned in my evaluation of the first version of the manuscript have been corrected - in spite of the authors stating that they did correct them.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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