Reviewer's report

Title: A novel germline PALB2 deletion in Polish breast and ovarian cancer patients

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Reviewer: Katri Pylkäs

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript presents the results of a mutation screening of the PALB2 gene in 70 Polish ovarian carcinomas. The authors found a novel truncating germline mutation, PALB2 c.509_510delGA, which was detected in familial breast cancer cases as well. This study is straightforward and provides new information about the PALB2 mutations in Polish population.

Minor essential revisions

1. Page 5. The classification of the familial breast cancer cases should be more detailed. How many families had at least one 1st or 2nd degree relatives affected with breast/ovarian cancer? Did the families with at least one 3rd degree affected relative have any additional selection criteria (such as young age at onset/multiple tumors) for being classified as familial ones, and if not are they really familial cases?

2. Table 1. The identification of different groups (patients/controls) is missing in frequency label. In addition, the different asterisks should be explained.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests