Reviewer's report

Title: Expression of tumor-specific antigen MAGE, GAGE and BAGE in ovarian cancer tissues and cell lines

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Reviewer: Yao-Tseng Chen

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In general, the data presented in this paper is largely confirmatory in nature, as the expression of CT antigens in ovarian cancer, including the ones examined in this manuscript, has been well documented in the literature, including several that were mentioned in the Discussion of this manuscript. That being the case, the significance of this manuscript is highly doubtful, particularly given the small case numbers (about 40 primary ovarian cancer and 7 metastatic lesions).

Major revisions:
1. In the 47 cases that were included as ovarian cancer, 6 of them were metastatic in nature. These 6 cases should not have been included in the series.
2. The authors claimed that MAGE-3 was not expressed in the metastatic ovarian cancer. However, since only 7 cases were examined, this conclusion, or any conclusion regarding the frequency of CT antigen expression in metastatic ovarian cancer for that matter, is invalid. If the authors intend to compare the expression frequency of these CT antigens in primary versus metastatic ovarian carcinoma, it would be essential to increase the number of metastatic ovarian carcinomas examined.
3. The histological types of the metastatic ovarian carcinoma were not described.
4. It is an unusual observation that 3 of 20 benign ovarian tumors expressed MAGE-1. The nature of the 20 benign tumors, and what were the ones that were positive for MAGE-1, should be described. This data, being unexpected, should also be shown as one of the figures.

Minor revisions:
1. The gel figures are shown upside down, i.e. higher MW in the bottom of the gel images. This is highly unconventional and should be changed to conform to the standard format.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. Antibodies are commercially available for the evaluation of MAGE-A and GAGE antigens. Adding protein expression data by using these antibodies would have significantly increased the quality of this manuscript.

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