Reviewer's report

Title: Epigenetic regulation of CD44 in Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma

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Reviewer: Simon D Wagner

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript addresses the question of whether there is differential epigenetic regulation in different subtypes of B-cell lymphoma. The authors analyse both B-cell lines and primary tissue. They make the surprising discovery that CD44 is hypomethylated in mantle cell lymphoma but hypermethylated in Burkitt's. The functional importance of CD44 mediated apoptosis is demonstrated. Overall this manuscript makes a contribution to understanding epigenetic variation in lymphomas and suggests important areas for future study would be why such variation exists.

The experiments are carried out to a high technical standard with the exception of the flow cytometry for annexin V binding (Figure 6A) where there is clearly a problem with compensation making for extremely difficult interpretation. I suggest that improved quality plots should be obtained prior to publication. Figure 6B will also need to be redone.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.