Reviewer's report

Title: Spermine oxidase (SMO) activity in breast tumor tissues and biochemical analysis of the anticancer spermine analogues BENSpm and CPENSpm

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Reviewer: Heather M Wallace

Reviewer's report:

1. The manuscript by Cervelli et al investigating SMO activity in breast cancer tissue and the analysis of spermine analogues are interesting. However, there is confusion over the in vitro versus in vivo versus in silico results and discussion which makes for some difficulty in evaluating the data.

2. The introduction does not “flow” well being a little short of detail and references particularly to breast cancer.

3. There are also a number of spelling/typographical errors e.g. affect should be effect.

4. Better linkage between the different parts is needed throughout.

5. 15 patients is a small number for a study.

6. In Figure 1 are ODC and SSAT significantly increased?

7. Figure 2 what is the p value?

8. It is not clear why the active site modelling was carried out and what relevance this has to breast cancer patients?

9. How were the ki values calculated?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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