Reviewer's report

Title: Pancreatic adenocarcinoma exerts systemic effects on the peripheral blood myeloid and plasmacytoid dendritic cells: an indicator of disease severity?

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Reviewer: Ignacio Melero

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This is a descriptive study on the frequency of conventional DC and plasmacytoid DC in Peripheral blood from patients suffering from pancreatic conditions, mainly ductal pancreatic cancer. The main criticism is that it is only a descriptive study without mechanistic insight or clinical correlates. The main merit of the manuscript is the size of the patient samples.

Comments:

1. Data should be referred to total PBMC or total leukocytes in such as way that absolute numbers are presented. Percentages can be mislead the interpretation and may solely reflect changes in other PBMC subpopulations. (including HLA-DR+ immature myeloid cells as shown in figure 3).

2. Pre and postsurgical samples in the same individual should be linkel by a line so the changes can be observed in individual basis. Changes should be valuable for comparison.

3. CXCL8 is of interest since it can alter migration cues of DC and thereby its tissue distribution. The tumor is the most likely source of the chemokine. A paper published by Feijoo E. et al in Int J Cancer (2005) may help the authors’ interpretations in this regard.

4. Prognosis and clinical correlations (even if negative data) should be presented if available.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests