Reviewer’s report

Title: Increased expression of Transcription Factor TFAP2 alpha correlates with chemosensitivity in advanced bladder cancer

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Reviewer: srikala sridhar

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Overall this paper by Nordentoft and colleagues attempts to understand chemosensitivity in advanced bladder cancer by studying the expression of a transcription factor known as TFAP2 alpha. Since response rates to cisplatin based chemotherapy are only about 50%, this is an important area of study. However, this paper was somewhat difficult to follow.

Major compulsory Revisions

1. Introduction
   Page 3, Line 3: Further details should be provided about the other predictive markers BIRC5 and BSG

2. Discussion
   Line 4: There needs to be discussion as to why high levels of TFAP2alpha protein expression predict a better outcome in lymph node invasive dz vs. non-lymph node invasive subgroup. For example, other than actual involvement of the lymph nodes are there other molecular differences known to exist between lymph node+ and negative cancers that could explain this? Specifically with respect to to p53/p21?

   There is a fair amount of information about other cancers, as opposed to a more detailed discussion about bladder cancer itself.

   There should be some discussion about future directions of this research, and how these results could be further validated.

Introduction:
Page 3, Line 2. Punctuation after "resistance" should be removed.
Line 19. punctuation before [6] should be removed
Line 19. Currently many studies...is a run on sentence and should be divided.

Discussion:
7th line from the end: Punctuation after Furthermore should be removed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.