Reviewer's report

Title: Zinc finger protein ZBTB20 expression is increased in hepatocellular carcinoma and associated with poor prognosis

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Reviewer: Jason Liao

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I have read carefully the paper. It is clearly written and the statistical analysis seems sound throughout. I have also checked a few p-values from chi-square test and they are correct.

One statement of the paper seems in error. In the Section "Correlation between ZBTB20 Expression and Prognosis", the paper stated

"The 1-, 3-, and 5-year OS rates were 77.5%, 53.5%, and 45.9%, respectively; and the 1-, 3-, and 5-year DFS rates were 94.1%, 69.2%, and 44.4%, respectively".

The authors need to double check on this since DFS (the interval between the dates of surgery and recurrence) is generally shorter than OS (the interval between the dates of surgery and death). The one year OS rate is supposedly Pr(OS>1) and the one year DFS rate is Pr(DFS>1). It follows that

Pr(OS>1) > Pr(DFS>1).

The same is true for year 3 and 5. This is clear from the survival curves in Figure 5.