Reviewer's report

Title: Viral-mediated oncolysis is the most critical factor in the late-phase of the tumor regression process upon vaccinia virus infection

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Reviewer: KM Rahman

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This is an interesting manuscript describing the factors such as tumor cell specific oncolysis, destruction of the tumor vasculature or an anti-tumoral immunological response, which are responsible mechanism for regression of human breast tumor xenografts upon colonization with an attenuated vaccinia virus (VACV). The authors found that VACV-mediated oncolysis is the primary mechanism of tumor shrinkage in the late regression phase. The suggesting approaches to enhance viral replication and spread within the tumor microenvironment is fascinating. Overall, the results are very interesting and important for breast cancer research. However, there is some minor concern as follows:

1. Discussion should be shortened

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