Reviewer's report

Title: The expression of ErbB3 binding protein 1 in salivary adenoid cystic carcinoma and its clinic-pathological relevance

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Reviewer: Antonio Feliciello

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The manuscript by Jian Sun et al. reports the expression profile of ErbB3 binding protein 1 (Ebp1) in adenoid cystic carcinoma (ACC) patients and its clinicopathological relevance. The authors found high levels of Ebp1 in non-cancerous tissue surrounding the neoplastic ACC lesion. Direct correlation between Ebp1 levels and tubular pattern of tumor lesions was reported. Moreover, metastatic adenoid cystic carcinomas show low levels of Ebp1, compared to non-metastatic lesions. Low Ebp1 levels positively correlate with decreased survival of ACC patients. Functional assays show that Ebp1 overexpression negatively regulates tumor cell motility.

The findings are interesting and novel. Few points need to be better addressed, as follows

1. Figure 1. Magnification of relevant parts of the images should be included as insets. Negative control for antibody specificity are required.
2. Figure 2, panels A&B. The data would be strengthened if a non-functional (mutated) Ebp1 variant is included as negative control.
3. Figure 2, panel B. Immunoblot for Ebp1 should be included.
4. Figure 2, panel C. The blots presented are of poor quality and need to be substituted by better quality gels.
5. How Ebp1 levels are regulated in tumor lesions versus non-cancerous tissues? do Ebp1 mRNA levels change among different tissues?

The text needs some revision.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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' below