Reviewer’s report

Title: Ep-ICD subcellular localization index (ESLI) is a novel marker for metastatic papillary thyroid microcarcinoma

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Reviewer: Antonio Feliciello

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The manuscript by Kunavisarut et al. describes the identification of Ep-ICD subcellular localization as a novel marker of metastatic papillary thyroid microcarcinoma (PTMC). The authors found a positive correlation between nucleo-cytoplasmic Ep-ICD localization with loss of membrane staining and the metastatic potential of PTMC lesions. The manuscript is well written and the experiments are appropriately designed and carried out.

However, the major problem with this manuscript is the number of patients analyzed and the differences in Ep-ICD intracellular localization between both groups, although statistically significant, are only minimal. Increasing the number of patients analyzed would clearly strengthen the authors conclusions.

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'