Reviewer's report

Title: Elevated cyclin B2 expression in invasive breast carcinoma is associated with unfavorable clinical outcome

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Reviewer: Fernando Schmitt

Reviewer's report:

The authors analyzed the expression of five biomarkers – CCNB2, ASPM, CDCA7, KIAA0101, and SLC27A2 – in a cohort of 80 patients with breast carcinoma. In a previous study, the gene expression of these five biomarkers was significantly deregulated in aggressive breast tumors. In the present study, the authors showed that the immunohistochemistry expression of CCNB2 was associated with short disease specific survival (DSS) in patients with breast cancer. By multivariate regression analysis, the protein expression of CCNB2 was found as an independent prognostic marker of DSS. They also tested the predictive power of CCNB2 and showed that the association of this biomarker with clinicopathological parameters achieved the higher index (C-index) for predicting breast cancer specific-survival. Furthermore, the immunohistochemical expression of CCNB2 was validated by quantitative RT-PCR: a positive association between the mRNA and protein levels of CCNB2 was observed. On the other hand, the immunohistochemical expression of ASPM, CDCA7, KIAA0101, and SLC27A2 did not correlate with clinicopathological parameters and DSS in this series of breast cancer.

The authors answered satisfactorily and performed all suggestions made by the reviewers.

Minor comments:
1. Please, correct the name of the authors of this reference cited in the text: “Elson/Ellis” to Elston/Ellis;
2. In figure 2, the correct is: dashed line – CCNB expressed; solid line – CCNB not expressed.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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:

No competing interests.