Reviewer’s report

Title: Low expression of hTFPI-2 associated with poor survival outcome in patients with breast cancer

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Reviewer: jianfei huang

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Xu et al analyzed the expression of hTFPI-2 in malignant breast cancers as well as benign breast tumors. They found hTFPI-2 expression was correlated with common cancer progression clinicopathologic features, such as tumor size, lymph node metastasis, histologic grade, clinical stage, and vessel invasion. By using computer digital image analysis, the study got relatively objective and accurate results. And more interestingly, hTFPI-2 expression was also associated with disease-free survival (DFS) of breast cancer. Breast cancer remains to be the most mortal malignancy in women worldwide and has become a global heath concern. Reliable prognostic factors and effective prediction methods for breast cancer are urgently required for improving the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. This work seems to provide a new clue for more accurate prognosis. The experiments are well-designed and carried out in good quality. However, the potential interest and significance of the finding was enshrouded by poor English writing. The authors need to put big effort in polishing the writing of the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. The labels in the Figures are tiny and faint, please make the fonts bigger.
2. The authors defined that no staining or staining less than 10 % of tumor cells as negative. The authors should describe the reason. And why the negative staining slices were excluded in the calculation of the IOD values?
3. The authors should discuss thoroughly the biological contribution of hTFPI-2 expression with respect to other factors, and give emphasis to how its evaluation would improve prognosis prediction.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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.