Reviewer's report

Title: EphB4 as a therapeutic target in mesothelioma

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Reviewer: Xiaofeng Han

Reviewer's report:

This is a manuscript of about EphB4 as a therapeutic target in mesothelioma from Ren Liu and co-authors. This manuscript investigated the EphB4 overexpression in human mesothelioma tissues, and found combination of the EphB4 inhibitor sEphB4-HSA with anti-VEGF antibody can lead to the complete tumor regression. Overall this manuscript showed the promising data that inhibiting EphB4 expression could inhibit tumor growth, and suggested EphB4 is a potential therapeutic target for mesothelioma.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. For the statistics in Figure 2, the coverage percentages were used for measuring tumor density, apoptosis or other activities. Were these coverage percentages normalized by DAPI coverage? Because the areas of each small figure are the same, but the numbers of cells are maybe different, normalizing by DAPI coverage will be more accurate for these statistics.

2. In figure 3, individual sEphB4-HSA and Bevacizumab treatment showed similar effect on tumor size, but in Figure 4, Bevacizumab treatment was not that significant comparing with the control. The discussion of this part is not enough; please add more discussion to analyze this mechanism.

3. Have authors tried other EphB4 inhibitors on mesothelioma other than sEphB4-HSA?

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

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’