Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical Implication of ZEB-1 and E-cadherin Expression in Hepatocellular carcinoma

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Reviewer: Violaine MOREAU

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Review of manuscript entitled "Clinical Implication of ZEB-1 and E-cadherin Expression in Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)" for BMC Cancer

Based on an immunohistochemical approach, this study by Hashigushi et al describes that positive ZEB-1 expression and reduced E-cadherin expression are correlated with the progression of HCC.

The study, which includes 108 patients, is well done and with appropriated methods. The results are clear and the data sound. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced, without over-interpretation.

Here are the minor points that need to be addressed before publication.

Minor Essential Revisions

Figure legends

Fig. 1a: As ZEB1 expression was classified into four groups based on the percentage of stained cells, please describe in which category belongs the sample shown on fig 1a.

Fig. 1f: Which tissue is it? Which antibody was used for the staining? Legend should describe the image shown.

Discussion: Zhou et al. paper (reference No. 25) is not correctly mentioned twice in the discussion section. The first author name is Zhou and not Yan.

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.