Reviewer's report

Title: High-incidence of PTEN mutations in Chinese patients with primary small cell carcinoma of the esophagus

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Reviewer: Huaitian Liu

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My comments are below to help improve the manuscript.

1. There are not significance of the association between PTEN mutations and clinical pathologic characteristics, e.g. gender, age, tumor location and TNM stage. PTEN with putative tumor suppressing is frequently mutated in many cancers. Do they test the association between PTEN mutations and tumor size? Zhang et al used #2 to assess the relationship between PTEN mutations and each of the clinical and pathologic parameters. Are all P values two-sided, and P < 0.05 was considered significant?

2. Page 13: It is necessary to point out that the incidence of PTEN mutation was relatively high among the male patients. Male 12/31(38.71%) vs Female 2/7 (28.57). It’s hard to draw the conclusion given relatively smaller number from female.

3. Typos and other
   Page 2: “Clinical–pathological datas” change to “Clinical–pathological data”
   Page 11: 165–200/100.000 change to “165–200/100,000”
   Page 11: “many publications report have indicatied” change “many publications reports have indicated”
   Page 11: “which consistent with data” change to “which is consistent with data”
   Page 13: “Our work” change to “our work”.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests