Dear Reviewers,

We have carefully revised the manuscript in accordance with your comments, and marked blue for all the changed parts. Hope that our study is now suitable for publication in BMC Cancer.

Many thanks for your processing work!

Yours sincerely,
Zhenhua Lin

Reviewer-1’s comments:
1. Minor Essential Revisions: The authors should comment on the fact that the % positive staining for total ezrin is lower than for p-ezrin in the manuscript. Given that others have seen this phenomenon using these antibodies in other cancer samples, the data suggest that the antibody to p-ezrin may have greater affinity than the antibody for total ezrin, thereby increasing sensitivity. The alternative explanation is that the p-ezrin is detecting a non-specific target, but Western blot analysis suggests that this antibody is specific, and that the affinity difference is the more likely explanation.

ANSWER: We already supplemented the explanation in the discussion part in Page 15.

2. Discretionary Revisions: page 3 Delete 'popular' and use 'target' instead of 'hotspot'.

ANSWER: Yes. We already modified the sentence in the manuscript according to your comment (Page-3).