Reviewer's report

**Title:** Expression of integrin alpha3beta1 and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX2) are positively correlated in human breast cancer

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**Reviewer:** Dong-Young Noh

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors have seen the correlation between a3b1 and COX2 expression in primary breast cancer samples using immunohistochemistry method. The previous preclinical work is great and the hypothesis seems to be of great value to be investigated.

To draw the conclusion that the a3b1 mediated COX2 pathway may regulate breast cancer progression that it may be a potentially valuable target for patients in clinic, the correlation of both molecules with recurrence, survival should initially be confirmed. Although the assessing method seems relatively easy and reproducible, value as a prognostic indicator in real patients seems limited.

The hypothesis of the work and the study design may be logical, we can only see that the a3b1 & COX2 are correlated. It is far too less to reach the conclusion the authors have described.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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