Reviewer's report

Title: Decreased expression of key tumour suppressor microRNAs is associated with lymph node metastases in triple negative breast cancer.

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Reviewer: Stefano Caramuta

Reviewer's report:

After the revision, there are still some major issues that the authors should address before the manuscript can be accepted for publication:

1. To verify microarray results from the first comparison (IDC vs NAT), the authors chose 5 miRNAs: still it is not clear why the authors chose these miRNAs among the 71 deregulated miRNAs.

2. The sentences added in the results section (lines 1-6, page 11) sound more like a discussion, and the authors did not address the questions from my previous comments:
   - did the authors try to perform statistical analysis to check if those 5 deregulated miRNAs (miR-130a, miR-1280, miR-590-5p, miR-1308, miR-17*) are sufficient to distinguish IDC from NAT?
   - the authors should check for biological functions and pathways for these 5 miRNAs (similar analysis performed for the 27 miRNAs associated with LN metastasis).

3. Again, how did the authors choose the 9 miRNAs (among the 27) for PCR validation?

4. Lines 7-20, page 13: these sentences might support the hypothesis that there are differences between LN+ and LN- tumors, however it is still not clear whether these 5 miRNAs miRNAs (miR-130a, miR-1280, miR-590-5p, miR-1308, miR-17*) could be actually specifically associated with TNBC phenotype (as suggested by the authors).

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