Reviewer's report

Title: B7-H3 expression in colorectal cancer: associations with clinicopathological parameters and patient outcome

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Reviewer: yongwen chen

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The manuscript entitle" B7-H3 expression in colorectal cancer: associations with clinicopathological parameters and patient outcome", which was submitted by Dr. VA Ingebrigtsen, investigated the expression of B7-H3 in 731 colorectal cancer patients using immunohistochemistry. Moreover, the associations between B7-H3 and clinicopathological parameters as well as patient outcome were investigated. Their results showed that nuclear expression of B7-H3 in cancer cells was present in 27% of the samples, while cytoplasmic/membrane and stromal expression was seen in 86% and 77% of the samples, respectively. Interestingly, nuclear B7-H3 was significantly associated with reduced recurrence-free survival in TNM stage I colorectal cancer patients, but the nuclear B7-H3 had no prognostic relevance in the complete outcome cohort, neither in colon cancer patients. Based on their previous and current studies, they have a conclusion that augmented the expression of B7-H3 in colorectal cancer was confirmed, but nuclear B7-H3 was not a strong prognostic biomarker in this cohort.

This research is very interesting in this field and outstanding merit. The language is generally acceptable. Only minor revision is need:

1) Figure 1 is very poor! For example, the author said that Panel A shows predominantly cytoplasmic/membrane and stromal staining. However, the reviewer did not agree this conclusion because I did not find positive cells through the whole section. At the same time, I did not agree that nuclear and cytoplasmic/membrane staining in panel B. Moreover, nuclear B7-H3 staining was also very weak in Panel C. I strong recommend the author replace these pictures. Additionally, please add some pictures demonstrated that B7-H3 staining in cytoplasmic/membrane/nuclear for positive controls.

2) It seems that most B7-H3 positive cells are not cancer cells that described in Figure 4. We think that cells (like macrophages) infiltrated with these tissues are positive for B7-H3. I recommend the author detect the exact cell types that are positive for B7-H3, like immunofluorescent double staining.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.