Reviewer's report

Title: Btbd7 Contributes to reduced E-cadherin expression and Predicts Poor Prognosis in Non-small Cell Lung Cancer

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Reviewer: Seung Ho Yang

Reviewer's report:

The authors showed that Btbd7 could be a prognostic predictor of NSCLC and Btbd7 expression is associated with EMT such as E-cadherin.

Here, I would like to ask and address the major points.

1. Btbd7 and prognosis
   Btbd7 expression is higher in patients with L/N metastasis. OS of patients with positive immunoreactivity of Btbd7 is shorter.
   Could authors show the relationship between Btbd7 expression and distant metastasis such as other organs?
   Btbd7 expression is found in 27 out of 61 patients with stage I and II. It means that Btbd7 expression occur in the early stage of NSCLC.
   I do not agree that Btbd7 expression is associated with the prognosis of NSCLC in this clinical data.

2. Btbd7 and EMT
   Btbd7 expression is associated with reduced E-cadherin expression and increased N-cadherin.
   Downregulation of Btbd7 inhibits the invasion of lung cancer cells in vitro.
   I suggest that other biomarkers of EMT such as MMPs, fibronectin, #-catenin or snail should be investigated.
   If available, mouse models of lung cancer metastasis could prove authors’ results.

3. Btbd7 and survival
   Btbd7 expression is associated with shorter survival in the survival curve of all 110 patients with NSCLC.
   They include the heterogenous characteristics in terms of pathology, stage and treatment modalities.
   I suggest that the univariate and multivariate analysis should be shown to confirm the role of Btbd expression as a prognostic predictor.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
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' below