Reviewer’s report

Title: FOXP1 inhibits cell growth and reduces tumorigenicity of neuroblastoma

Version: 1 Date: 18 July 2014

Reviewer: Jianhua Yang

Reviewer’s report:

FOXP1, one of members of Forkhead box family, is involved in many human malignancies. However, the function of the gene in tumors is contradictory. FOXP1 plays an oncprotein role in breast cancer, glioma, and hepatocarcinoma. Especially, its machnism of tumorigensis was investigated profoundly in B cell lymphoma. On the contary, it acts as a tumor surpressor gene in lung caner, prostate cancer, and renal cell carcinoma. In this manuscript, Ackermann, S. et al show us some interesting and valuble results in NB. They examined 476 neuroblastoma specimens expression profiles using microarray. They found FOXP1 were associated with markers of unfavorable prognosis and unfavorable gene expression-based classification. In addition, overexpression of FOXP1 in NB cells inhibited cell proliferationa and migration.

Discretionary Revisions:

According to the results, low expression of FOXP1 was identified in NB samples, and DNA methylation didn’t play a role in this process. It will be great that authors can explore the transcriptional regulation of the gene in NB cells by microarray and CHIP-seqencing since overexpression of FOXP1 in NB cells induced cell apoptosis and inhibited cell migration as shown in Fig 5 and 6. Validation of target genes of FOXP1 involved in these two phenotypes will be valuable to determine the anti-tumor function of the gene in NB.

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'