Reviewer’s report

Title: The clinicopathological and prognostic impact of 14-3-3 sigma expression on vulvar squamous cell carcinomas

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Reviewer: Zannoni Gian Franco

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The manuscript by Wang et al., addresses two issues: 1) the role of 14-3-3 sigma expression in vulvar cancer, and 2) its correlation with clinicopathological variables.

While the issue is novel since no previous papers have investigated the role of this protein in vulvar cancer, many relevant criticisms need to be raised. The authors declare that in vulvar carcinoma more 14-3-3 sigma protein moved from cytoplasm in the nucleus suggesting a potential role in tumorigenesis, but in Table 1 we can see a statistical significant correlation between increasing high nucleus and also cytoplasmatic levels of the protein and tumor diameter and depth of invasion. This finding suggests that no different tumor biological behaviour depend on cellular localization. In this context the conclusion seems to be not appropriated.

Moreover no correlation was reported between survival and protein levels according on cellular localization, so a specific role of this peculiar pattern of expression in cancerogenesis of vulvar cancer seems to be still to demonstrate (page 13 line 10-14; pag 15 line 3-6).

Furthermore in Methods page 5 line 19-21 the sentence is not clear and should be rewritten.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'