Reviewer's report

Title: Aberrant allele-specific replication, independent of parental origin, in blood cells of cancer patients

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Reviewer: Mohammad Hoque

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Title: Aberrant allele-specific replication, independent of parental origin, in blood cells of cancer patients

This study presents results with some novelty on the markers for methylation analysis.

I am a bit perplexed on the design of this study:

This study seems to be to understand the replication patterns of three genes in blood lymphocyte of prostate cancer patients and the evaluation of these markers for patient management.

If the authors are indeed searching new marker for early diagnosis of prostate cancer I think it would be advisable to carry out an evaluation test on tissue samples, and then to perform an independent test based on the blood specimens. In fact if the markers are selected for a non-invasive diagnostic test, the reliability should be first verified on the paired tissue samples and bodily fluids. If the authors are searching for new marker for a better management of prostate cancer in terms of "pathological assessment and clinical management", the correlation of methylation and clinicopathological parameters should be the central core of the results.

Overall, this is a rather descriptive manuscript. Although the work was carefully performed but it lacks a clear focus and objective. There are several critical points need to be corrected as described below.

Abstract: It should be rewrite describing the purpose, methods and results with statistics and clear conclusive statement from their findings. I am a little bit confuse how these finding will be use for early detection?

Background: It is too descriptive. They should have to write clearly the rationally of their choosing the genes tested

Results:

1) They should have to provide a tables describing clinicopathological and demographic information of the patients

2) Figures are very poor quality and some are very hard to read and not numbered
Discussion: They should describe their findings. They wrote some paragraph which are not reflect in their results.

Methods:

1) What is the rationale of using 10-7 M 5-AZA.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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