Reviewer’s report

Title: Increased expression of EphA7 correlates with adverse outcome in primary and recurrent glioblastoma multiforme patients

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Reviewer: Michael Berens

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Summary
Wang et al report heightened EphA7 protein levels coincident with adverse outcomes for patients with primary or recurrent GBM. Elevated EphA7 is correlated with GBMs that show higher microvessel density. In a cohort of 32 GBM patients, shortest survival was evidenced in patients whose tumor had high EphA7 and high microvessel density, and longest survival (p=0.01) in patients whose tumors had negative EphA7 and low microvessel density. The authors posit that EphA7 may be a prognostic indicator as well as a candidate therapeutic target in GBM.

Critique
The densely-written manuscript portrays engaging findings on an association of EphA7 expression with short overall survival (fig 2A) of GBM patients distinct (p=0.02) from patients with low/absent EphA7 expression. Coupled with the score of microvessel density, markedly different survival outcomes manifest (Fig 3). The assays are clearly presented, and the data is depicted in a manner offering ascent to the conclusions.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
Tables 1 and 2 are somewhat confusing, due to the layout of the information.

The enigmatic report that microvessel density is lower in recurrent GBM than primary is pointed out, but the implications this may have on the patient population that comprises the study group of this report is of some concern; this warrants careful discussion.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.