Reviewer's report

Title: Nuclear expression of Snail1 in borderline and malignant epithelial ovarian tumours is associated with tumour progression

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Reviewer: Karen L Abbott

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript "Nuclear expression of Snail1 in borderline and malignant epithelial ovarian tumours is associated with tumour progression" is a well written clinical evaluation of Snail1 expression in ovarian cancer. The work is novel and has not been previously evaluated in ovarian tumours. The authors use of immunohistochemistry to evaluate the expression of this transcription factor is important due to published differences in protein and mRNA levels. The evaluation of nuclear or active Snail1 versus inactive cytoplasmic Snail1 was also a plus.

My only criticism is that the authors don't evaluate any correlation between E-cadherin expression and nuclear Snail1 expression in these tissue sections. In other words, in ovarian cancer are similar reduced levels of E-cadherin observed when Snail1 is activated as reported for other tumours. This manuscript is a more clinical and statistical evaluation of Snail1. This work may stimulate more molecular based studies to evaluate genes that may be repressed in early ovarian tumours by Snail1.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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