Reviewer’s report

Title: Reduced expression of ezrin in urothelial bladder cancer signifies clinically advanced disease, tumour progression and an impaired survival: validatory study of two independent patient cohorts

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Reviewer: fadi brimo

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MAJOR REVISIONS:

Interesting study but the lack of clear data about the cohort and the use of survival solely as an end point is very confusing it should be clarified

1) are all cases from TURB? or cystectomy as well?
2) TA includes low grade and high grade non invasive tumors?
3) In real practice invasive low grade urothelial carcinoma is very rare almost all invasive tumors are high grade by definition how can the authors explain the relatively high number of invasive low grade tumors in their cohort?
4) If we are dealing with TURBs, the three end points should be recurrence, progression, and death, not only death lumping TA with T2 and correlating with death is confusing and does not account for the different treatment modalities that are used for those tumors what I would suggest is to divide cases according to type of specimen (turb vs cystectomy) and present the results with three end points as suggested above for TURB specimens (recurrence, progression and survival) Cystectomy specimens should be correlated with recurrence and death.

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: NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST