Reviewer's report

Title: Expression of histone deacetylases 1, 2, and 3 in urothelial bladder cancer

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Reviewer: Lourdes Mengual

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In this manuscript the authors aim to evaluate protein expression of class I HDACs in bladder cancer and correlate their expression with clinico-pathological parameters. They find high expression levels of HDACs particularly in high grade urothelial bladder cancer. The authors address an interesting issue on bladder cancer. The question posed by the authors is well defined and the methods are appropriate and well described. However there are a few questions to be answered.

• Minor Essential Revisions

In the background is stated that “Class I HDACs are divided in four isoforms (HDAC-1, -2, -3 and -8)”. However the authors only analyze 3 of them in their TMA. Can the authors explain why? Moreover, in the discussion section they generalize and state that: “Our study is the first that tested the immunohistochemical expression of class I HDACs”. In my opinion, they test only three out the four class I HDACs. This needs to be clarified.

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

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'