Reviewer's report

Title: Immunotherapy using slow-cycling tumor cells prolonged the overall survival of mice bearing colon carcinoma

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Reviewer: Xiubao Ren

Reviewer's report:

In this paper, the authors proposed an interesting hypothesis that vaccination with the slow-cycling CT-26 tumor cells could generate effective antitumor response both in vivo and vitro which is somewhat related to up-regulated expression of MHC-II and co-stimulatory molecules on surface after chemotherapy. Their findings are novel and of high clinical significance. The experimental was well-designed and the data were well explained. The English writing is acceptable. But there is a minor revision for this paper: In order to indicate the relationship between chemotherapy and increased proportion of slow-cycling subset in total tumor cells, the authors should explain if the absolute number of slow-cycling cells increased, or more fast-cycling cells converted to slow-cycling cells after chemotherapy. Anyway, the paper is of considerable importance to be published in BMC Medicine.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

‘I declare that I have no competing interests’