Reviewer’s report

Title: STAT3 expression correlates with prognosis of thymic epithelial tumors

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Reviewer: Yang yu

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Major Compulsory Revisions#This article discussed the correlation between STAT3 expression and prognosis of thymic epithelial tumors. So far as I know, there are not so many researches on STAT3 expression and prognosis of thymic epithelial tumors. So I am interested in this research. How to realise precise prediction of thymic epithelial tumors prognosis has been a hot topic. WHO histological classification and Masaoka staging are two effective staging methods, but they both have some defects in thymic epithelial tumors prognosis prediction. Many researchers have done much work to explore the molecular biological mechanisms that imply influences on thymic epithelial tumors prognosis. And many genes as c-Myc, MUC1 and so on have been clarified related to the tumors' biological behaviors. In this article, the author found out the relationship between STAT3 expression and prognosis of TET. And I hope the author can do more work on the relationship between prognosis of TET and STAT3 related pathways as JAK-STAT3 signaling pathway.

Minor Essential Revisions#The author mentioned the patients enrolled and evaluated in this retrospective study were from March 1999 to June 2009, and the follow-up ended at the end of May 2010, with a median follow-up of 61.5 months (14-134 months). I think the follow up period maybe 12-134 months.

At last, I hope the author can do more work in this research. Not only taking the signaling pathways into the further research but applying more experimental methods as RT-PCR, western-blot methods, etc.

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