Reviewer's report

Title: Microarray analysis of RNA extracted from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded and matched fresh-frozen ovarian adenocarcinomas

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Reviewer: Hermann-Josef Grone

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In this manuscript the authors have tried to address an important issue of comparability between the two fixation techniques, namely fresh frozen (FF) and formalin fixed, paraffin embedded (FFPE) samples. However, I have following comments:

Major comments

1. Authors have taken matched samples for the ovarian tumor but their counterpart for the normal ovarian samples is missing. This is important here as the authors themselves have observed a significant difference in terms of intensity values while comparing FF and FFPE tumor samples.

2. Some recently published articles that deal with similar issues should be referred.

3. In this study a set of 56 genes were found to be significantly altered, which is too few for the characterization of a cancer. Did a cut-off of 2-fold or some other cut-off reduce the number of genes? In addition, the authors should also mention the number of genes that are varying due to the different fixation methods.

4. A proper standard set of genes should be determined for comparing the FF and FFPE samples.

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