Reviewer's report

Title: Cancer and Lhermitte-Duclos Disease are Common in Cowden Syndrome Patients

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Reviewer: Oliver Gimm

Reviewer's report:

I this original study, the authors analyze the risk of developing cancer and LDD in patients with Cowden disease. This is an interesting investigation and the authors should be thanked for their efforts. Special care was undertaken avoiding double citation of patients.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. There are some problems with the references. On page 11, 2nd paragraph, the authors state “An association between an identified PTEN mutation and breast cancer diagnosis in CS has been reported (11).” Reference #11, however, is on “American College of Gastroenterology Guidelines for Colorectal Cancer Screening 2008” and, as far as I can see, the words PTEN and breast cancer can nowhere be found in the text. Has reference #14 been cited somewhere? Could the authors make sure that the other references are correctly cited?

2. Concerning figures #3, I would advise to add the cumulative risk for women and men separately within the same figure, not just the cumulative risk for all individuals.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Is it possible to state whether the patients with bilateral breast cancer had bilateral cancer synchronously or metachronously? (results, page 6, 2nd paragraph)

2. Concerning figures #4, should the cumulative risk for male patients be added?

Discretionary Revisions:

1. There is one publication on “Multiple colon carcinomas in a patient with Cowden syndrome” (BOSSERHOFF et al., INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR MEDICINE 18: 643-647, 2006). I feel that that study should be cited.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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.