Reviewer's report

Title: HLA-E expression in diffuse glioma: relationship with clinicopathological features and patient survival

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Reviewer: Jinlong Shi

Reviewer's report:

The authors performed a retrospective analysis in a high number of glioma patients, and showed a correlation between HLE-E expression and survival. The results are interesting. The authors demonstrated that particularly for LGG, higher HLE-E expression correlated with worse outcome.

Although the study is definitely interesting, the main problem is lack of the IDH status in the multivariate analysis, and we would know if HLA expression remains significant after IDH status has been included. The IDH status, as well as the MGMT status are well recognized, important prognostic factors of survival and should be included in a cox analysis. Only this way we can be sure that HLE remains independently significant.

Page 3, line 12 "Tumor-promoting inflammation" and "avoiding immune destruction" are considered as two of the hallmarks of cancer (4)."

What are these? Theories? Principles? Please clarify it.

Page 6, line 8 "For survival analysis, patients were divided into two subgroups based on their HLA-E mRNA expression values (cut off at 50% of the group)."

Why the cut off at 50%? There needs to be a reason. Were other cut offs assessed?

Page 8, line 28 "Cox regression analysis was performed only in patients with LGGs"

Why? What about HGG?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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