Reviewer's report

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

Version: 0 Date: 16 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are minor issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

No - there are issues with the statistics in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions
PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The authors tried to correlate the survival of Glioma patients and the HLA-E expression level, and revealed the significance of HLA-E as an adverse progression marker by multivariate Cox regression analysis in the LGG. The authors carefully classified the glioma patients according to the IDH, 1p19q status and the pathological diagnosis. However, all the HLA-E expression data are from microarray with no experimental verification, and the glioma patients information and gene expression are exclusively from CGGA, which may add the systematic bias.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

If the primary tumor tissues are still available, qPCR verification of expression of HLA-E among selected samples are recommended. Otherwise, analyze the glioma data from TCGA to independently verify the hypothesis is also recommended.

It is not clear whether normalized HLA-E expression value are log-transformed or not.

Cox regression analysis were only applied to LGG group. Is HLA-E still significantly correlated with survival in other groups? Age and K value are very strong factors in the Cox regression analysis, is there any other factor, for example the treatment, can be considered in the analysis? Is there any interaction effects between those factors?

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

No

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

No

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

No

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
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Acceptable

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