Reviewer’s report

Title: The importance of the PD-1/PD-L1 pathway at the maternal-fetal interface

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Reviewer: Antonio Simone Laganà

Reviewer’s report:

I read with great interest the Manuscript titled "The importance of the PD-1/PD-L1 pathway at the materno-fetal interface" (PRCH-D-18-01367).

In my honest opinion, the topic is interesting enough to attract the readers’ attention. Methodology is accurate and conclusions are supported by the data analysis. Nevertheless, authors should clarify some points and improve the discussion citing relevant and novel key articles about the topic.

Authors should consider the following recommendations:

- Manuscript should be further revised by a native English speaker in order to correct several typos.

- Inclusion/exclusion criteria should be better clarified (any other demographic or clinical criteria?).

- Was this study registered? I could not find any information about this point.

- It is essential that the Authors describe limitations of their study. In this regard, the really small size of the sample is certainly one of the main limitations of the study. I recommend better clarifying this point.

- Recent and novel evidence suggested that epigenetic changes, in particular altered expression of selective miRNA, may play a key role in both placental-induced diseases such pre-eclampsia and intrauterine growth restriction. It would be mandatory to discuss (at least briefly) this topic, referring to: PMID: 28466013; PMID: 28282763.

- The real challenge in the era of molecular medicine is to find a biomarker (or even better a panel of biomarkers) for early diagnosis of pre-eclampsia, a disease for which the altered immune tolerance at the maternal-fetal interface may play a significant role for its initiation and progression. I would stress this point, referring to: PMID: 28243732; PMID: 26512423; PMID: 29923045.
At the end of the manuscript, reference list is not formatted according to the Journal's guidelines. I recommend the Authors to follow this example: Smith JJ. The world of science. Am J Sci. 1999;36:234-5.

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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