Reviewer's report

Title: Role of SMC1A overexpression as a predictor of poor prognosis in colorectal cancer

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Reviewer: Khawla Al-Kuraya

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REVIEW COMMENTS

In this manuscript authors has studied the role of SMC1A in 427 CRC, 56 normal colon and 51 adenoma cases in tissue microarray format and also correlated the data with various clinicopathological variables. Along with this they did cell line and xenograft study to prove their hypothesis.

The concept and design of the study is good, however the following are main concerns which should be revised before publication:

ABSTRACT

Page 2, line 6. They said they did study on 534 CRC patients. Actually CRC cases were only 427, rest were not colorectal patients. So it should be corrected.

METHODS

Page 5, line 15-22. Authors have not provided any detail about antibody validation. How they validated their antibody. How they chose their scoring criteria. If it was done earlier then should give reference, if not then justify the scoring system used by them.

RESULTS

Page 9, line 10. “In high grade” should be replaced by “in late stage”, as some tumors in stage III & IV are of lower grade.

Authors have also stated that stage III & IV patients have significant worse survival (p=0.008) and in ABSTRACT (page 2, line13) they stated that it is an independent poor prognostic predictor. If it is independent prognostic predictor then multivariate analysis should be presented in result section. Authors should also give parameters used in MVA analysis and relative risk. Multivariate table is needed for such statement.

What about survival in all 427 patients as whole. If it is not significant then Title of manuscript should be changes accordingly “Role of SMC1A overexpression as a predictor of poor prognosis 1 in late stage colorectal cancer”

Table 2

Percentages should be given in parenthesis besides numbers to correlate the p-value.

Under “Position” heading, p value is 0.000. It should be written as p<0.0001, if it is very high significant value.
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'