Reviewer’s report

Title: Prognostic significance of multiple kallikreins in high-grade astrocytoma

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Reviewer: Krishna P. Bhat

Reviewer’s report:

In the manuscript titled “Prognostic significance of multiple kallikreins (KLK) in high-grade astrocytoma” by Drucker et al., the authors evaluate the expression of multiple isoforms of KLK in high grade astrocytomas using immunohistochemical approaches. Using Kaplan-Meier and multi-variate analyses for association, the authors conclude that of the various isoforms, KLK6, KLK7 and KLK9 have utility as prognostic markers of patient survival in these brain tumors.

The authors have extensive experience studying KLKs and data presented is very detailed statistical analyses. The figures and the IHC images are all high quality. The main concern moving forward with this manuscript is a lack of sufficient data. The “Results” section alone is described in two pages. Previous studies by the same authors have shown prognostic as well as mechanistic studies on KLK6 in glioma (Drucker et al., Neuro-onc, 2013). Similar approaches could be taken for characterizing KLK7 and KLK9 in glioma, which undoubtedly will enhance the quality of the manuscript.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

None