Reviewer's report

Title: The prognostic significance of Proline, glutamic acid, leucine rich protein 1 in triple-negative breast cancer: a retrospective study on 129 cases

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Reviewer: Pellegrino Michele

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In the present manuscript the Authors aim to address the role of Proline, glutamic acid, leucine rich protein 1 (PELP1) as prognostic markers for TNBC patients. PELP1 overexpression was reported to induce the malignant transformation of normal cells, accelerate cell cycle progress, promote tumor cell proliferation, and enhance the migration and invasion of tumor cells. Here, the Authors assessed the PELP1 expression in 129 patients with TNBC and correlated the status of PELP1 independently or in combination with other clinic-pathological variables to the outcomes of the patient. In particular, they demonstrated that the high PELP1 protein expression is correlated with positive lymph node status in TNBC. Moreover, the Authors showed that for the TNBC patients with characteristics of smaller tumor size or high Ki-67, high PELP1 protein expression in tumor may predict a poorer outcome and double high expression of PELP1 and Ki-67 is associated with poorer outcome of patients.

The reported observations are interesting, the paper is well written. Thus, the resulting data are convincing and the conclusions are strongly sustained by data obtained.

There is just one change to do: in the figure 1 the morphological pictures should have a size bar indicated and should be displayed also at a higher magnification.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'