Reviewer’s report

Title: MiR-216b inhibits cell proliferation by targeting FOXM1 in cervical cancer cells and is associated with better prognosis

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Reviewer: Wa Xian

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He et al described detailed in vitro studies using Hela cells to study the role of MiR-216b in cervical cancer cell lines and its link with FOXM1. Furthermore, the authors attempted to prove that MiR-216 is a prognosis marker for cervical cancer. It should be noted that Sun M et al published in Cell Bio Int on 2017, Feb 22 and they have reported that microRNA-216b inhibits cell proliferation and migration in human melanoma by targeting FOXM1 in vitro and in vivo. The highlight of the He et al is the correlation between increased expression of microRNA-216b and patients' survival. However, it is unclear how miR-216b was measured in these patients. In the method, the authors claimed that qPCR was done on 150 patients and divided them to two groups (high and low). The qPCR data should be presented in the main figure . In addition, the expression of FOXM1 in these patients should be studied to examine the correlation. The authors should focus on further strengthening the findings in Figure 6 in order to improve the novelty and significance of current manuscript. In addition in Figure 1, it is unclear what is negative control that the authors referred to.

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.

Yes

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?
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I recommend additional statistical review
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