Reviewers report

Title: Identification of Fluorescence in Situ Hybridization Assay Markers for Prediction of Disease Progression in Prostate Cancer Patients on Active Surveillance

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Reviewer: Meixia Che

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Identification of Fluorescence in Situ Hybridization Assay Markers for prediction of disease progression in Prostate cancer patients on Active Surveillance

Summary

In this paper, the authors performed a retrospective study to evaluate FISH markers on PCa specimens corresponding to Progressive or non-progressive prostate cancer patients, with the hypothesis that the genomic abnormalities from radical prostatectomy specimens might also contribute to progressive prostate cancer later on. The FISH experiments were very successful. The authors identified the best 3-5 FISH parameters by performing Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve analysis. Then authors combined FISH parameters with clinical parameters in the logistic regression model and found this combination contributed significantly to the prediction of PCa outcome, especially in the low to intermediate risk group. Altogether, they were able to show that FISH might be a useful parameter complimentary to clinical parameters for PCa risk stratification.

Minor comments:

1. Can the author use a table to outline all the patients' information, such as age, Gleason score, FISH parameters? This might be more informative to the readers.

2. As the authors said, there is no good way to predict the Pca outcome, especially in the intermediate risk group, so the study present here really provide a possible method to overcome this issue. Recently there are two papers published in New England Journal of MEDICINE talking about the relationship of DNA-repair defects in germline and metastatic prostate cancer (J. Mateo, et al, 2015; C.C. Pritchard et al, 2016). The authors might want to incorporate or compare with those genomic anomalies in the future.
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:

Acceptable

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