Reviewer’s report

Title: Heterogeneity of PD-L1 Expression in Primary Tumors and Paired Lymph Node Metastases of Triple Negative Breast Cancer

Version: 0 Date: 03 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Mohamed Mokhtar Desouki

Reviewer’s report:

This is very interesting paper, which investigated the expression of PD-L1 in primary and paired lymph node metastases in triple negative breast cancer, which carry the worst prognosis. The manuscript is well written with clear design, interesting findings and detailed analysis.

Few comments:

1. What the authors mean by infiltrating immune cells in the LN metastasis? Are those the native cells present in the LN? if so, please refer to the cells as nodal lymphocytes throughout the manuscript.

2. How to explain the significant difference with the absence of LVSI. All the cases have LN met and theoretically speaking have LVSI which may not be detected or sampled.

3. What the authors mean by "metastasis" in the text and also in table 1. Is this the distant metastasis? If so, please indicate that.

4. What is the total number of positive cases for PD-L1 in primary tumors. Are they 39 or 41? Please fix the second paragraph in the results section accordingly.

5. Please include the initials of the 2 expert breast pathologists in the text. Also, delete the word "cancer" to read as "experienced breast pathologists".

6. Mention the abbreviation the first time mentioned in the text, then use is consistently throughout the manuscript.

7. Delete the negative cases from figure 1 (panel A and B).

8. Move "The median age at diagnosis was 51 years (range, 27-74 years), and the median follow-up time was 49.03 months (range, 10.97-94.27 months)" to the result section.

9. Delete "Taken together, these data confirm that PD-L1 expression has significantly negative effects on node-positive TNBC patients and that PT-/LNM+ and PT+/LNM+ patients have similar prognoses" from the result section. It is already mentioned in the discussion.
10. Change "might is not" to "may be not"

11. Change "for the treatment of multiple different tumor types" in the introduction section to "for the treatment of different tumor types"

12. Delete the spaces in ( TNBC ) to read as (TNBC) in the abstract

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:

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