Reviewer's report

Title: FAM3B/PANDER inhibits cell death and increases prostate tumor growth by modulating the expression of Bcl-2 and Bcl-XL cell survival genes

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Reviewer: Xiaopei Cao

Reviewer's report:

The authors determined the impact of PANDER on prostate tumor cell growth and probe the underlying mechanism. Overall, these findings provide new explanation for the physiopathologic role of PANDER. However, several issues should be addressed.

1) Except the mRNA expression, the PANDER protein expression should be checked in the cell lines and in the tumor tissues.

2) It is necessary for the author to perform the same experiments in a PANDER knock down LnCAP cell line (with high PANDER expression) to confirm the findings in the PANDER overexpression DU145 cells (with low PANDER expression).

3) The protective effect of PANDER was only observed in the TNF-alfa induced cell death. Then, what is the signal pathway of the downstream of TNF-alfa. This should be addressed and checked.

4) In figure 6, the western blot for cleaved caspase3 and caspase9 are not quite clear.

5) Further experiment data is needed to confirm that whether inhibition of bcl2 and bcl-XL pathway contribute to PANDER effects on prostate tumor cell livability.

6) As this data presented results opposite to the previous studies, the possible underlying reasons should be discussed.
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?
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