Reviewer’s report

Title: Galectin 3 expression in regional lymph nodes and lymph node metastases of oral squamous cell carcinomas

Version: 0 Date: 27 Mar 2018

Reviewer: Martinho Horta

Reviewer’s report:

This reviewer recommends the following revisions:

1) At the end of the Introduction, in addition to the aims of the study, the main hypotheses to be tested should be specified.

2) In the page 7, lines 11-17, the authors stated: "In the lymph node sinus, there was a tendency towards higher Gal3 expression in T2 compared to T1 cases (median 274 cells/mm2 and 175 cells/mm2, respectively) without statistical significance (p=0.357) (Table 1)." With an alpha of 0.05, if the p-value is higher than 0.05, we cannot conclude that a significant difference exists. Moreover, in this situation, it is not adequate to use words like "tendency towards...". The authors should not use this approach, which is repeated elsewhere in the results.

3) Figure 1c shows evident tissue-fold artifacts and should be changed. If possible, the same should be done with Figures 1a and 1d.

4) The authors should report the main limitations of the study in the last paragraph of the Discussion.

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?
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