Reviewer’s report

Title: Androgen receptor mRNA expression is a predictor for recurrence-free survival in non-muscle invasive bladder cancer

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Dianzheng Zhang

Reviewer’s report:

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The author of the article titled "Androgen receptor mRNA expression is a predictor for recurrence-free survival in nonmuscle invasive bladder cancer" tried to establish the relationship between the levels of AR mRNA and recurrence-free survival (RFS) of bladder cancer. The finding is interesting although not without controversies with the other reported results. However, more questions need to be addressed before it can be accepted for publication.

1. Since the authors emphasized the importance of the AR as a transcriptional factor and regulating its target gene, it is not enough to have only the AR mRNA levels. It is better to show the AR protein levels because they are more relevant and meaningful. In addition, if the AR functioned as a transcriptional factor as the authors suggested, they need to show some of AR target genes in the cancer tissues, too.

2. The authors used the levels of AR (low and high) as the parameter to reflect the RFS. I did not see how the low and high levels were defined and why.

3. When they describe the patients, they used the sentence "We retrospectively reviewed 53 cases of TUR-BT among 51 patients with non-metastatic NMIBC treated at Yokohama City University Medical Center and Yokohama City University Graduate School of Medicine from 2008 to 2015". I do not quite understand how you can review 53 cases among 51 patients.

4. Although they discussed the discrepancies between their findings and the previously published data, they failed to address the potential underlying mechanisms to reconcile their findings with that of others.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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