Reviewer’s report

Title: Secretion of fibronectin by human pancreatic stellate cells promotes chemoresistance to gemcitabine in pancreatic cancer cells

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Reviewer: Ramzi Mohammad

Reviewer's report:

Gemcitabine is standard chemotherapy of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma despite suboptimal clinical effects that are partly due to the development of chemoresistance.

Pancreatic stellate cells of the tumor stroma are known to interact with pancreatic cancer cells and influence the progression of PDAC through a complex network of signaling molecules that involve

Methods: PSC cultures obtained from ten different human PDAC tumors were co-cultured with PCC lines extracellular matrix proteins. To understand tumor-stroma interactions regulating chemosensitivity, the role of PSC-secreted fibronectin in the development of gemcitabine resistance in PDAC was examined.

The Methods were well described and the statistic analysis is very good.

Several points:
1. The study does not include proper controls. The pancreatic stellate cells can not be compared to PC cell lines. They should compare them with PC cells taken from xenografts or PDX.

2. No study was shown on collagens?

3. The FN inhibit RGDS results are not impressssive

4. some language correction, Tumor vs tumuors....

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.
No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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