Reviewer’s report

Title: Blocking podoplanin suppresses growth and pulmonary metastasis of human malignant melanoma

Version: 1 Date: 08 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Wen-Wei Chang

Reviewer’s report:

The authors demonstrated that SZ168, the anti-hPDPN antibody, displayed anti-tumor activity in a xenograft model. Some revisions should be considered.

1. It is suggested to include a control of parental CHO xenografts for Fig. 3 and Fig. 5 to clearly prove the specificity of SZ168 in vivo.

2. The results of Fig. 4 can be removed. The binding activity to melanoma tissues in vivo has been demonstrated in Fig.7. It also suggested to examine the binding of SZ168 in clinical specimens.

3. It is also suggested to provide the evidences about that SZ168 inhibits platelet coating on tumor cells or reduces tumor-platelet aggregates in vivo.

4. The authors should also provide data about the expression of TGF-b, VEGF-A, PDGF in C8161 xenograft tissues to try to explain the anti-metastatic activity of SZ168.

5. For better understand the mechanisms of therapeutic effect of SZ168, the authors should consider to use B16F10 mouse melanoma cells inoculation into C57BL6 mice and analyzing the immunological microenvironment within tumors, such as profiles of cytokines or immune cells.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

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 recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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