Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluating Pre- and Post-Operation Plasma miRNAs of Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma (PTC) Patients in Comparison to Benign Nodules

Version: 0 Date: 14 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Deepak Parashar

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript is well written and interesting. However the sample size is too low to make a conclusive remark. It can be accepted for publication.

1. There are some typographical errors like miR mentioned like mir and patient information is mentioned as info. Please check and correct it for easy to understand for the readers.

2. Its better to represent the box plots for the expression of selected microRNAs using quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction rather than in a tabular form.

3. Why authors focussed on very limited microRNAs. Ideally it should be unbiased and through any high throughput technique.

4. It will be highly appreciable if authors can provide- A, Set diagram showing miRNA expression in patients with PTC or benign thyroid nodules and healthy controls; B, scatter plot of expression of specific miRNA in the PTC and the benign nodule groups; C, scatter plot of expression of specific miRNA in the PTC and the healthy control groups.

5. The data representation is not good. Authors should provide their Q-PCR results like in Box plots of miRNA expression levels in sera of patients with PTC or benign thyroid nodules and healthy controls.

6. What is the Diagnostic value of these microRNAs. Please elaborate in discussion.

7. References need to be updated with latest ones (if available).

8. Please also elaborate your conclusion in terms of what you recommend the use of this study in future studies on large sample size.

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.

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:

Acceptable

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