**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:** 25 Feb 2019

**Reviewer:** Peter Natesan Pushparaj

**Reviewer’s report:**

I. **General Comments**

The manuscript entitled "Evaluating Pre- and Post-Operation Plasma miRNAs of Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma (PTC) Patients in Comparison to Benign Nodules" by Rezaei et al studied the expression of microRNAs (miRNAs) such as miR222, miR146a, miR-181a, and miR15-5p in the plasma of papillary thyroid carcinoma patients and benign cases (control) before and after thyroidectomy. They showed that miR-222 was positively correlated with BRAFV600E mutation and overexpressed in PTC. Besides, the miR-181 and miR-146a were differentially expressed in PTC and benign controls. The mir-155-5p was not differentially expressed between the PTC and benign controls.

II. **Specific Comments**

1. In Table 2, authors need to check the statistical significance of miR-155-5p (PTC and Control).

2. It is essential to measure the levels of miR221 in the plasma of PTC patients and benign controls since miR221/222 levels may provide clues for the differential diagnosis of PTC.

**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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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