Reviewer’s report

Title: Epithelial-mesenchymal transition markers screened in a cell-based model and validated in lung adenocarcinoma

Version: 0 Date: 21 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Rintaro Noro

Reviewer's report:

The authors used a cell-based model mimicking the tumor microenvironment, which successfully stimulated the vimentin expression and repressed E-cadherin expression for proving EMT. This strategy would be very interesting, however there are many deficiencies,

1) These strategy was only one way for inducing EMT. Why did you decide this strategy?
2) They discovered that several new transcription factors were among the earliest genes to respond to cancer micro-environmental cues which could play critical roles in triggering further EMT signals. They should clarify the meaning of "earliest".
3) Why the expression of early EMT hallmark genes, GALNT6, SPARC and HES7 were decreasing in stage III and IV? You have to do the mechanical study in advanced stage using in vitro or in vivo study.
4) In this study, you had better include the clinical application in discussion. For example, predicting staging? or recur?
5) Can you demonstrate the miR- will affect EGFR signaling using cellines using EGFR mutation and A549?

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.

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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