The manuscript "NR2F1 contributes to cancer cell dormancy, invasion and metastasis of salivary adenoid cystic carcinoma by activating CXCL12/CXCR4 pathway" deals with a highly interesting problem related to adenoid cystic carcinoma of the salivary glands, namely their tendency to remain dormant for extended periods of time (10-15 years) before progression of dormant metastatic cell clones to extensive lung metastases and death of the patient. The primary tumour sends dormant metastatic clones usually before the diagnosis is made, contributing significantly to the adverse long-term prognosis of adenoid cystic carcinoma.

The setting and results of this study are interesting and may contribute to understanding of the mechanisms of dormancy in this tumour type.

The number of cases (59) appears sufficient to describe these early findings in a satisfactory manner, although large scale studies will be needed to achieve conclusive statistical evidence.

Problems of the English language of this manuscript are disturbing, and beyond minor editing. I request that the authors have the manuscript checked by an English language professional or a native speaker before decision about accepting the manuscript is made.

The discussion section is interesting but excessively long. I would prefer to have it shortened significantly.
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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal