Reviewer’s report

Title: PD-L1 and CD4 are independent prognostic factors for overall survival in endometrial carcinomas

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Reviewer: Harshita Gupta

Reviewer's report:

In the manuscript titled "PD-L1 and CD4 are independent prognostic factors for overall survival in endometrial carcinomas" by Zhang et al., the authors have investigated the prognostic values of tumor microenvironmental cell populations CD4+, CD8+ T cells, CD68+ macrophages and expression of PD-1, PD-L1 on immune cells and tumor infiltrating immune cells, in addition to VEGF expression in TME. They report that high tumor cell (TC) expression of PD-L1 correlates with better overall survival (OS), and longer treatment free interval post primary chemotherapy in relapsed cases. TC PD-L1 expression correlated inversely with TIC PD-L1. Further, high CD4+ and to some extent high CD8 content is indicator of better prognosis. High TIC PD-L1 indicates poor prognosis. MSI status is a good indicator of CD8+ infiltration but not for OS.

The article reports novel findings in the field of endometrial cancer. Following are the comments that need addressing:

Line 57: PD-L2 is also expressed on tumor cells, B cells among others. Please add that.

Please explain in greater details the staining protocol for tumor cell PD-L1 and TIC PD-L1, as that forms the critical basis of this study

Line 306: should be immunohistochemistry.

It would be interesting to know the status of PD-1, CD80 on TC (the two known ligands of PD-L1), and their impact on OS, PFS, as TIL PD-L1 can interact with TC PD-1 and CD80.

What about foxp3 expression? Foxp3/CD8 ratio is a good indicator of prognosis.

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.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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