Reviewer's report

Title: Expression of p53 N-terminal isoforms in B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia and its correlation with clinicopathological profiles

Version: 0 Date: 13 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Keith August

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is well written and describes the distribution of several p53 isoforms in unique patient populations. These results are important and may help to establish a possible pathway for chemotherapy resistance in BCP-ALL in children.

The abstract contains demographic patient details (age and gender) that are not included in the manuscript and should be included in the 'Results' section. The methods section includes details regarding the genetics of de novo ALL patients. These details should be moved to the 'Results' section as well and included with the demographic information, perhaps in a table for ease of reading. It would also be recommended to describe the genetics of the relapsed patients as well.

The methods section describes 10 patients with 'secondary/relapse' BCP-ALL, the remainder of the manuscript refers to these 10 patients as relapsed, please clarify.

In this study, 20% of children with BCP ALL were positive for BCR-ABL1, which is higher than expected given the age range and may limit generalizability to other pediatric patients.

One limitation of the study is the lack of control patients (n=4). As the manuscript reports multiple comparisons between BCP-ALL patients and controls, this should be listed as a limitation in the discussion.

For Figure 2, b and c contain two rows with the same data presented in slightly different ways. For the bottom row, the chart with 40 unique patients is impossible to read. I would advise eliminating the entire bottom row to avoid confusion.

Other minor recommended revisions:

Line 76-77: 'All is a heterogeneous…' This sentence needs to be rewritten or removed.

Line 106: should be 'shows'

Line 230: fold is used twice - redundant
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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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