Reviewer's report

Title: An online tool for evaluating diagnostic and prognostic gene expression biomarkers in bladder cancer

Version: 2 Date: 15 April 2015

Reviewer: Kamran Zargar Shoshtari

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In this article the author introduces an online tool (BC-BET). Data from 13 patient cohorts have been compiled from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) and Array Express databases. The software can report if a particular gene is differentially expressed between tumor and normal tissue and additionally high-grade and low-grade; and muscle invasive and non-muscle invasive disease. I have the following questions for the author:

1. Patient selection methodology is somewhat confusing. Does the author state that all patients who received neoadjuvant or adjuvant chemotherapy were excluded?

2. Table 1 reports that significant amount of survival data is missing from the various included datasets. This is an important limitation and should be discussed in the manuscript. Only one dataset has reported RFS.

3. Where there any other important data point such as tumor stage, or grade also missing for any of the patients? A table describing the patient cohort would be helpful.

4. Is there any possibility of overlap of patients between any of these datasets? i.e. same patients being presented in different report from the same institution.

Minor Revisions

1. The BC-BET website states that 14 patient datasets are utilized whereas the manuscript states 13.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests