Reviewer’s report

Title: MST-4 and TRAF-6 expression in the peripheral blood mononuclear cells of patients with Graves' disease and its significance

Version: 0 Date: 10 Dec 2016

Reviewer: Katarzyna Ziemnicka

Reviewer’s report:

This work present interesting results. Methodology is adequate, although I have some comments:

1. There is no information about the normal range of TRABs

2. On Figure 3, where there are the results from Western blot there is visible difference in the expression of both MST-4 and TRAF-6 within the same group of GD samples between two presented blots. There is lower signal from GD samples on Fig3A than on Fig. 3B. This indicate that the SDS-Page and blots were done separately. Authors should place the samples from GD, eGD and normal controls on one blot and then analyze and compare all groups. This will indicate that the conditions for the procedures were the same. I understand that this is only small part of the WB study but it should be presented in more reliable way.

3. When Authors describe in "Results" thyroid function (first sentence - row 25th) they should mention that thyroid function indicators levels were higher considering only fT3 and fT4 as TSH was suppressed.

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.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

**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