Reviewer’s report

Title: The precursor for nerve growth factor (proNGF) is not a serum or biopsy-rinse biomarker for thyroid cancer diagnosis

Version: 2 Date: 09 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Gilles Freiss

Reviewer's report:

In this study the authors examined the value of proNGF, which was overexpressed in thyroid cancer, as a serum and biopsy-rinse biomarker for thyroid cancer diagnosis. They showed that proNGF is not a clinical biomarker for this condition. It is important to report data on promising biomarkers, even to conclude that they are not clinically useful. In addition they observed an association between proNGF and hyperthyroidism, justifying new studies to better understand the relationship between hyperthyroidism and proNGF.

The study is well designed, methods are adequate and well controlled, and manuscript writing is clear except the following points:

Major: page 9 lines 199 to 201. I don't understand the sentence. why is there a"\)" at the end? Has a part of the sentence disappeared?

Minor: Sup Table2 the abbreviation FTC is unnecessary.

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:

Acceptable

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