Reviewer’s report

Title: The role of epithelial-mesenchymal transition in the post-lung transplantation bronchiolitis obliterans

Version: 0 Date: 16 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Alpha Diallo

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The subject of endothelial mesenchymal transition (EMT) is well known to the research community. A hit into Google Scholar by a layperson would generate around 352000 results; looking at survival post lung transplantation would generate about 1,480,000 results and the specific BO discussed in this paper would amount for over 27000 results.

R. Kalluri and R. A. Weinberg published a good summary of the basics of epithelial-mesenchymal transition (1). Bronchiolitis Obliterans Syndrome, a type2 EMT is the commonest cause of long term mortality and morbidity following lung transplantation(2). It has been shown that the persistence of EMT beyond the attenuation of the inflammatory process in this category could result in fibrosis.

This is an otherwise good research paper from a very talented team of authors.

There was a good literature search, the appropriate methods and statistical tools were used.

I do have few issues to highlight:

The discussion, though took into account previous findings, overcredited the results (confusingly laid-out) observed in this paper.

On top of the language revision required in this article, the authors underestimate the limitations of their study by only singling out the lack of our current knowledge of the full mechanism of EMT in the pathogenesis of BO. This is very small sample in a rat model aiming to understand the biggest burden that faces human lung transplantation as we know it today. Therefore, the first sentence of the conclusion sounds overzealous to me. Other factors common to animal models should be highlighted such as "various pathophysiological mechanisms, different responses to drugs, variations induced by techniques, differences in genetic regulation, anatomical differences---"

I do agree with the last sentence paving the way to further research into this conundrum.


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