Reviewer’s report

Title: Circulating cancer stem cell markers in breast carcinomas: a systematic review protocol

Version: 1 Date: 21 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Yuxiang Zhang

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript is to use systematic analysis to evaluate circulating cancer stem cell markers in breast carcinomas. Below are my comments:

1) Please clarify what CSC markers will be included in the outcome evaluation.

2) Please discuss in detail in the systematic review or/and meta-analysis, how the expression of the CSC markers will be normalized across different studies.

3) Please discuss in detail the inclusion criteria for the methods of CSC identification and isolation for the included study.

4) The goal of this study is to improve the identification of CSC in the cancer patients. However, in order to detect the CSC, different studies might use different methods and criteria. This sounds paradoxical. Please discuss the feasibility and rational of this study.

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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