

**Reviewer's code:** 02932624

**Reviewer's comment:** One of my concern is this study does not include any blood cancers as SOX2 has been implicated in the pathogenesis of hematological malignancies too.

**Author's reply:** During our search process, we have found some articles investigating the role of SOX2 expression in hematological malignancies but they didn't satisfy our inclusion criteria.

- One study didn't report SOX2 as low" or "high" expression (see this article: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3432482/>).
- We were not able to access the full article of this article: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28718379>
- Or the study was designated as a review article: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5627022/>

**Reviewer's code:** 03439017

**Reviewer's comment:** the analysis is limited to sox gene, could be important to make a more deepened analysis that include also oct4 and nanog to have a result including all the principal stemness signature genes.

**Author's reply:**

Investigating NANOG and OCT4 (other regulators of embryonic stem cells) was beyond our objectives. Besides, there is an evidence of differences in SOX2 regulation rather than NANOG and OCT4 during early differentiation <https://www.hindawi.com/journals/sci/2014/298163/> . The role of these proteins in metastasis may be addressed separately and more extensively in future meta-analyses.