Review of: "Somatic evolution of Cancer: A new synthesis"

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The manuscript by Ulfat Baig et al. entitled "Somatic evolution of cancer: A new synthesis" deals with the idea of dissecting and integrating contrasting theories, such as the mutational process, wound healing, and microenvironmental factors repurposed from physiological functions in normal tissues, with the process of tumor development.

Although this article may be interesting, with the ambitious potential to present important discussions on cancer development and biology from new and already existing processes and to bring in new perspectives, the structure is confusing and lacks supportive literature.

The text would benefit from a more compact, clear, and fluid textual organization. I suggest a more focused and in-depth discussion of each aspect, avoiding redundancy. The Abstract and Introduction sections should be better adapted to the theoretical outline of the article so that the readers can easily follow the critical points of the discussion throughout the manuscript.

For each aspect, especially for the mechanisms and factors that could alter the tissue microenvironment, a detailed description, and discussion of the compelling and emerging evidence from relevant publications in recent years to establish causality, including very powerful omics approaches, will be expected. The paradigm of tissue-specific cancer structure and its associated biochemical and biophysical properties also holds great promise for therapeutic intervention. This is very promising as it could lead to the reversal of cancer into normal tissue and could improve the response to anti-cancer therapies.

Finally, it should be discussed how this new theory may pave the way for new therapeutic opportunities in the prevention and management of cancer.