

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



May 6, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 10127-revised.doc).

Title: Low expression of miR-193a-5p correlates with lymph node metastasis and poor prognosis in colorectal cancer

Author: Peng Zhang, Deng-Bo Ji, Hai-Bo Han, Yun-Fei Shi, Chang-Zheng Du and Jin Gu.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 10127

Reviewer 1: It would be nice to touch –in the Discussion- on the cost of this test if it is applied clinically to colorectal patients.

I have put it in the discussion of the paper.

MLNL and FFPE were abbreviated in the introduction and Material and methods, respectively without the full wording.

I have updated above two abbreviation words by putting their full wordings.

Reviewer 2: On page 3, the acronym 'MLNL', although already explained in the abstract, should be explained in the main text at its first appearance.

The word has been explained in the main text.

If the numbers are not too small for analysis, it might be interesting to see for the group of patients with nodal metastases whether miR-193a-5p expression is related to survival.

The relationship between miR-193a-5p expression and patient survival in group of patients with nodal metastases has been analyzed. The relative data and figures have been put in the updated manuscript.

The references should all be noted according to the journal's guidelines.

The references have been noted correctly according to the guidelines.

Reviewer 3: The definition of miR-193 “High” group and “Low” group should be noted.

The definition or criterion of the two groups has been noted.

The representative figure of qRT-PCR should be shown.

The representative figure of qRT-PCR has been shown in updated version.

The authors concluded that TGF might act as target molecule of miR-193a-5p. The role of TGF in tumor progression has been known as double-edged sword and its function may be depends on cancer progression. This may partly explain the inaccordance of tumorigenic and anti-tumor role of miR-193. Please consider mentioning these subjects into text.

I am very grateful for the review's suggestion and I have put these subjects and their relative references into the manuscript.

How about miR-193a-5q expression in adenoma?

All samples are obtained from our hospital. But it's a pity that patients with adenoma are difficult to be available in our hospital. As a cancer hospital, most of patients come here for further treatment after preliminary diagnosis and treatment in other hospitals (general hospitals). So they always have been treated if they were diagnosed as benign tumors such as adenoma.

Because an estimation of colorectal cancer patients survival by biomarker is more meaningful to select suitable therapeutic modality before surgical resection. miR-193 expression in patient's serum will be valuable. If it is difficult to obtain patient's blood, please consider adding this notion

into text.

It is difficult for us to obtain patient's blood and I have added this notion into text.

Page3, Line21: "show" to "shows"

This word has been typed correctly in the revised manuscript.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '张鹏' (Zhang Peng), written in a cursive style.

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