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## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 32942

**Title:** PBX1 attributes as determinants of connexin32 downregulation in Helicobacter pylori related gastric carcinogenesis

**Reviewer's code:** 00503623

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-03-17

**Date reviewed:** 2017-03-18

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript presents the data, obtained with human and animal gastric epithelial cells, that Hp. Infection leading to gastric carcinogenesis exhibit reduced expression of a gap-junction protein, Cx32. Further, the results show that inhibited transcription of PBX1 factor leads to Cx32 upregulation. Using dual-luciferase reporter assay, it is concluded that PBX1-Cx#2 targeting site could offer a new insight to the mechanism of Hp-induced gastric carcinogenesis. The topic is well presented and the interpretation of the results is based on a solid experimental evidence. My only suggestion is that you should check the text for grammar, spelling, and the word usage (i.e., disintegrity ? or synchronized?).



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## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 32942

**Title:** PBX1 attributes as determinants of connexin32 downregulation in Helicobacter pylori related gastric carcinogenesis

**Reviewer's code:** 00343118

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-03-17

**Date reviewed:** 2017-03-20

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the introduction it is recommended to introduce also genetic risk for Gastric cancer, not only the H. pylori gastritis-cancer chain. Although, this is more evident in Caucasian patients. Figure 4 could be implemented by PBX1 and Cx32 immunohistochemistry.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 32942

**Title:** PBX1 attributes as determinants of connexin32 downregulation in Helicobacter pylori related gastric carcinogenesis

**Reviewer's code:** 00039368

**Reviewer's country:** Estonia

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-03-17

**Date reviewed:** 2017-03-31

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is very well designed, performed and written clinical and experimental study for analyzing of impact of Helicobacter pylori on downregulation of connexin32 (CX32) in gastric mucosa epithelial cells and its association with gastric carcinogenesis. This study is an extension of the previous study of the authors concerning the expression of Cx32 in human adenocarcinomas. The authors used the clinical specimens of gastric mucosa obtained from patients who made gastroscopy as well they used animal tissues from Mongolian gerbils. The authors used a large panel of methods, like RT-PCR, Western blot, transcriptional factor/DNA array and plasmid construction and dual-luciferase assay. The authors found that H. pylori retarded gap junction function by significant reduction of Cx32 expression and trigger the important augmentation of transcription factor PBX1 which is associated with gastric carcinogenesis. This clinical investigation gives an additional knowledge to understand the role of H. pylori in gastric carcinogenesis and therefore have an important clinical outcome. The study is set up



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correctly. The paper is written well. Introduction gives a good overview of the study background and the authors raised clearly the aim of the study. The aim of the study is fulfilled. The material studied is large enough and allows to draw the conclusions. The Figure of high quality give a good overview about the results. However, the following point needs to be considered: 1. In Material and method by description of the patients studied is necessary to mention the number of the persons studied, also the age, gender, as well as to present more precisely the diagnosis and the localization of gastritis or gastric carcinoma.