

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 48428

**Title:** Analysis of unfavorable prognostic biomarker of APC in period-T4 gastric cancer

**Reviewer's code:** 02523972

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Ruo-Yu Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-05-21 22:44

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-05-30 06:22

**Review time:** 8 Days and 7 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors described APC is the poor prognostic factor of T4 gastric cancer. This study is a well written, and interesting to readers of the relationship between APC-high and various factors as genes , miRNA and DNA methylation. However, the results are not well discussed and some parts should be improved with more explanations and



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discussions. 1. The definition of APC-high and low APC-low should be clearly described. 2. I can't understand why APC-high expression is associated with poor prognosis only in T4 tumors, not in T1-T3. Are there any big differences in T3 and T4 in terms of tumorigenesis? I speculate that T4 tumors are more associated with peritoneal dissemination. How about markers metastasis ability? 3. Are there any relationship between APC-high and other factors such as TNM staging or lymph node metastasis.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

##### ***Google Search:***

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

##### ***BPG Search:***

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 48428

**Title:** Analysis of unfavorable prognostic biomarker of APC in period-T4 gastric cancer

**Reviewer's code:** 03001816

**Reviewer's country:** Reviewer\_Country

**Science editor:** Ruo-Yu Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-06-04 11:55

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-06-04 14:49

**Review time:** 2 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper describes associations between APC expression and prognosis in period-T4 gastric cancer. High APC expression was correlated with poor prognosis, related to altered miRNA expression and consequent changes in gene expression as well as changes in DNA methylation. APC can be used as a novel biomarker for prognosis and



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the pathways uncovered can be targeted for treatment. Problems: Language/writing needs considerable editing The phrase "As far as I know" (with small "i") was used, that is inappropriate for a scientific paper and in any case, there are multiple authors The authors can expand a bit more on the mechanisms linking APC levels with the observed effects. ceRNA was cited as linking APC to miRNA, but do the authors have any speculation on how APC affects ceRNA? As regards the levels of methyltransferases, could that be an indirect effect of miRNA changes? The authors cite a reference that APC is not necessarily linked to Wnt activity in gastric cancer, but in could be linked. Consider the "just right hypothesis" for colorectal cancer. It is possible that Wnt activity is deregulated in some gastric cancers independent of APC mutation, but that higher levels of APC lower the Wnt activity to a "just right" level conducive to tumor growth? This is speculation, the point is that just because higher APC is linked to poor prognosis does not mean that Wnt signaling is not involved at all. A point to consider for the Discussion.

## **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

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### ***BPG Search:***

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[ Y ] No