



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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Title: Expression and diagnostic value of HE4 in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 02953994

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: FACP, MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: China

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA

Telephone: +1-925-399-1568

E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com

https://www.wjgnet.com

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

HE4 is a 25 kDa secreted glycoprotein, is specifically expressed in epididymis, lung and trachea tissues. HE4 carries protease inhibitor activity through interactions with serine proteases, Prss35 and Prss23, which are implicated in kidney fibrosis in a mouse model. The prognostic value of serum HE4 as a biomarker for ovarian and endometrial cancers has also been well recognized. Serum HE4 could be a potential diagnostic marker for small cell lung cancers, non-small cell lung cancer, breast, ovarian, endometrial cancers. HE4 was found to be of little benefit in diagnosis, prognosis and other clinical settings of several human cancers. But there is little research focus on the diagnostic value of HE4 in ESCC. In this study, the authors evaluated the associations between serum HE4 levels and clinicopathological parameters in a cohort of ESCC patients. The design of the study is very well. Sample size is large, and methods are described in detail. Results are interesting and well discussed. References are updated. Please check the data in tables. And figures should be moved to the end of the text. A minor editing is required according to the journals' guidelines. Thank you very much.