

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 55952

**Title:** Phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-trisphosphate dependent Rac exchange factor 1 is a diagnostic and prognostic biomarker for hepatocellular carcinoma

**Reviewer's code:** 02942437

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-04-10

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jin-Lei Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-04-26 02:14

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-04-29 07:44

**Review time:** 3 Days and 5 Hours

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 Grade E: Do not publish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

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors clearly demonstrated that P-Rex1 expression was increased in HCC and P-Rex1 is a diagnostic and favorable prognosis biomarker; however, there are several issues for acceptance in this study. Major points

1. Ninety HCC patients were included in this study; however, the detailed clinical backgrounds are not described. The authors should describe the patient's background, such as tumor size and numbers, BCLC stage, vascular invasion, and Child Pugh grade, which are associated with HCC prognosis. Especially, vascular invasion plays an important role in HCC prognosis, thus authors should evaluate P-Rex1 expression in patients with positive or negative vascular invasion.
2. Why are the patients with HBV infection higher P-Rex1 expression?
3. P-Rex1 expression was significantly higher in patients with positive of lymph node invasion and distance metastasis, and high AFP level (Figure 2 B, C, and D). These findings seemed to indicate that P-Rex1 is a poor prognostic factor for HCC patients; however, the results are contrary to the expectation as Figure 5 shown. The authors should discuss these discrepancy.
4. The authors should discuss the reason why P-Rex1 is associated with a favorable outcome, such as overall survival, progression free survival, and relapse free survival in HCC patients.

Minor point Figure 3B and C are not mentioned in RESULTS.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 55952

**Title:** Phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-trisphosphate dependent Rac exchange factor 1 is a diagnostic and prognostic biomarker for hepatocellular carcinoma

**Reviewer's code:** 02936084

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Egypt

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-04-10

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jin-Lei Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-04-25 15:36

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-05-27 10:24

**Review time:** 31 Days and 18 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

- The authors explore the expression of P-Rex1 in HCC, and further evaluate its potential application in the diagnostic and predictive prognosis for HCC, especially in the diagnosis in HBV-related patients -The idea is very good. The study is well-designed. The manuscript was well, concisely and coherently organized but I want to clarify some points. 1- what is the temperature of the refrigerator? Do you put the resected specimens as a whole in the refrigerator or you cut the specimens and then preserve the slices in the refrigerator). 2- Did you do resection of the tumour for patients have lymph node invasion, distant metastasis????) 3-(How you do score of the immunohistochemistry staining and please can you add a figure of these staining in the tumour and the adjacent tissue) 4-You do not explain how you divide the cases into low or high expression. 5-You do not even mention if the staining is nuclear or cytoplasmic. 6- Please you do not mention figures in the discussion) 7-(please , how you can explain the prolong survival time in higher P-Rex1 expression and in the same time, the P-Rex1 high expression was associated with lymph node invasion and distant metastasis which are bad prognostic factors)

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 55952

**Title:** Phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-trisphosphate dependent Rac exchange factor 1 is a diagnostic and prognostic biomarker for hepatocellular carcinoma

**Reviewer's code:** 02936084

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Egypt

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-04-10

**Reviewer chosen by:** Le Zhang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-02 06:40

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-07-02 08:27

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](http://www.wjgnet.com)

I highlighted my comments in yellow in your response to reviewers

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 55952

**Title:** Phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-trisphosphate dependent Rac exchange factor 1 is a diagnostic and prognostic biomarker for hepatocellular carcinoma

**Reviewer's code:** 02942437

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Profseor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-04-10

**Reviewer chosen by:** Le Zhang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-01 09:37

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-07-03 12:40

**Review time:** 2 Days and 3 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript was well revised according to the comments. Minor point The detailed information of the patients including its table should be described in "RESUTLS".