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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 56692

Title: Immune infiltration-associated SA Y predicts favorable prognosis for HCC

Reviewer's code: 04091933
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: MD, PhD
Professional title: Associate Professor, Senior Researcher
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-05-10
Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan
Reviewer accepted review: 2020-06-10 21:25
Reviewer performed review: 2020-06-17 23:00
Review time: 7 Days and 1 Hour

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish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

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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The research topic seems to be truly relevant given the high global incidence of HCC. The search for biomarkers is important not only for diagnosis, but also for assessing tumor progression. SAA1 is regarded as the important biomarker in inflammation and malignancy, but its biological role has not been fully understood despite extensive research. Despite the association with some tumors, a causal relationship has not been established. Some of the results on SAA1 remain controversial. In my opinion, the merit of the authors is that they first showed the downregulated expression of SAA1 in HCC, a decrease SAA1 expression with the increased tumor grade and disease stage. Ultimately the authors confirmed that the decreased SAA1 expression was involved in the progression of HCC. Moreover, the study identified 2 signature genes interacted with SAA1 (these data enhance the prognostic value of SAA1 in HCC). The fact that the SAA1 expression is associated with the anti-tumor immunity pathways, has an important translational value. Firstly, the lower SAA1 could be a potential therapeutic target. Furthermore, the downregulated expression of SAA1 can be used as a potential prognostic biomarker for HCC. The study was performed methodologically correct. The manuscript is well understood and easy to read. The authors provided well-constructed and well-annotated table and figures. The authors reasonably cite the latest, relevant, and comprehensive references without self-citation. In summary, the manuscript was prepared in a professional manner and certainly can be recommended for publication.