

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

Manuscript NO: 64642

Title: MicroRNA expression in inflammatory bowel disease-associated colorectal cancer

Reviewer's code: 03806452

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Academic Research, Senior Researcher, Senior Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: France

Author's Country/Territory: Brazil

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-21

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-04-08 07:09

Reviewer performed review: 2021-04-12 13:03

Review time: 4 Days and 5 Hours

Scientific quality	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" 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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors aimed to profile the miRNAs expressed in IBD, CRC, and IBD-related CRC. Their main focus is to discuss their role in the diagnosis and prognosis, and their potential as therapeutic targets. This review is quite well-balanced but lacks novelty and precision. The authors should better emphasize the interest of the figure 1. The manuscript could be strengthened by a section/figure/table highlighting the possible targets of the identified miRNAs, especially for IBD-related CRC group, using appropriate tools (mirtarbase, diana, ...). Some very interesting articles have not been discussed and deserve some explanations. Please see below. A schematic diagram showing miRNA linked to the progression of IBD-related CRC would be a plus. The authors should add some keywords (diagnosis, prognosis, targets). I recommend a major revision.

Identification and validation of a miRNA-related expression signature for tumor mutational burden in colorectal cancer. Xu L, Zheng Q. *World J Surg Oncol*. 2021 Feb 20;19(1):56. doi: 10.1186/s12957-021-02137-1. PMID: 33610190.

MicroRNA Biomarkers in IBD-Differential Diagnosis and Prediction of Colitis-Associated Cancer. James JP, Riis LB, Malham M, Høgdall E, Langholz E, Nielsen BS. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2020 Oct 24;21(21):7893. doi: 10.3390/ijms21217893. PMID: 33114313.

Review. Detection of molecular signatures and pathways shared in inflammatory bowel disease and colorectal cancer: A bioinformatics and systems biology approach. Al-Mustanjid M, Mahmud SMH, Royel MRI, Rahman MH, Islam T, Rahman MR, Moni MA. *Genomics*. 2020 Sep;112(5):3416-3426. doi: 10.1016/j.ygeno.2020.06.001. PMID: 32535071

A Panel of Methylated MicroRNA Biomarkers for Identifying High-Risk Patients With Ulcerative Colitis-Associated Colorectal Cancer. Toiyama Y, Okugawa Y, Tanaka K, Araki T, Uchida K, Hishida A, Uchino M, Ikeuchi H, Hirota S, Kusunoki M, Boland CR, Goel A. *Gastroenterology*. 2017 Dec;153(6):1634-1646.e8. doi: 10.1053/j.gastro.2017.08.037.

Integrating analysis reveals microRNA-mediated pathway crosstalk among Crohn's

disease, ulcerative colitis and colorectal cancer. Bai J, Li Y, Shao T, Zhao Z, Wang Y, Wu A, Chen H, Li S, Jiang C, Xu J, Li X. Mol Biosyst. 2014 Jul 29;10(9):2317-28. doi: 10.1039/c4mb00169a. PMID: 24949825 Differential microRNA expression tracks neoplastic progression in inflammatory bowel disease-associated colorectal cancer. Kanaan Z, et al. Hum Mutat. 2012. PMID: 22241525.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Author's Country/Territory: Brazil

Manuscript submission date: 2021-02-21

Reviewer chosen by: Ya-Juan Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-07-16 08:06

Reviewer performed review: 2021-07-16 08:45

Review time: 1 Hour

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have nicely improved their review and I think this article is now suitable for



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