

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: The manuscript describes the pathogenesis of HCV-associated HCC, especially in the terms of miRNA. For early diagnosis and treatment of HCC, several targets of miRNA were summarized.

1. The logical order of manuscript needs to be revised. For example, in the section of Hepatocellular carcinoma, authors mention the connection between miRNA and HCC, but fail to make a detailed discussion.

*We thank the reviewer for this suggestion. We have changed the text accordingly, and addressed this issue in a lighter form in the Discussion, in a new paragraph.*

2. Would miRNA be affected by other diseases? When it comes to early diagnosis and treatment of HCC, its specificity would be crucial.

*We agree with the reviewer that this information is important, and that complements the article. We have now inserted it in the Discussion paragraph.*

3. Compared to widely used tumor markers, such as AFP, PIVKA- II , the potential advantages of miRNA would be attractive to describe.

*We thank the reviewer for this indications, and we have now included the following in the revised text.*

4. Maybe a figure would make the content of manuscript clearer.

*We agree with the reviewer and, as suggested, a Figure has been inserted.*

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors:

This is a difficult review on a topic that is still evolving. The authors have done a good job of reviewing the subject. I have only few suggestions and comments. The review is primarily descriptive; hence, adding critical comments on the existing literature would be helpful. There is too much general information about HCV infection, including treatment, that appears to be out of context with the review's title (miRNA). Therefore, it would be worth thinking about condensing the general information. Kindly consider adding some schematic figures depicting the role of miRNA in HCC in HCV infected patients.

*We thanks the reviewer for the positive evaluation of our work, we changed the text in accordance with the suggested recommendations, however with our manuscript we tried to*

*give a comprehensive view of HCV and HCC, pointing to the miRNA implication, in terms of the diagnostic and the therapeutic potential. Moreover, have now included a figure that schematizes the role of miRNAs in HCC and HCV patients.*