



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 60431

**Title:** Circular RNA AKT3 governs malignant behaviors of esophageal cancer cells by sponging miR-17-5p

**Reviewer's code:** 03010350

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-10-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ru Fan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-11-14 12:36

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-11-24 13:55

**Review time:** 10 Days and 1 Hour

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 Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish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



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

I studied the article with great interest. It certainly deserves the praise and approval of publishing it. However, I have a suggestion to remove the section on peripheral blood mononuclear cells from the article. The authors write: Moreover, the expression of circAKT3 was increased in PBMCs of patients with esophageal cancer compared to that in healthy controls (Figure 1B). It seemed to me that these differences are not obvious judging by the range of variability and the median. Secondly, this fact is not included in the conclusions and even in the Discussions section. And finally, third, many questions arise at once about the nature of the circAKT3 correlation in malignant and non-malignant cells of an oncological patient. Perhaps, if we remove the results for PBMC, the level of significance in the statistics section will be higher than  $p < 0.05$ . In the Discussion section, there is a phrase: In addition, miR-17-5p acted as downstream molecule to inhibit the effects of circAKT3 on esophageal cancer cells. It seems to me better then to explain the difference between this inhibition and sponging.