

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

**Manuscript NO:** 77770

**Title:** IL-34 promotes the proliferation and epithelial-mesenchymal transition of gastric cancer cells

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 00505755

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Senior Research Fellow

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-05-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-05-30 23:39

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-05-31 01:31

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input 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



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**Peer-reviewer  
statements**

Peer-Review: [☒] Anonymous [☐] Onymous

Conflicts-of-Interest: [☐] Yes [☒] No

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This study demonstrates that IL-34 promotes the proliferation and EMT in gastric cancer. Section 2.1 Patients and samples may be revised to describe the detailed information on grade in line 6 of the section.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 06286468

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

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

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

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**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-05-31 07:29

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-06-02 12:51

**Review time:** 2 Days and 5 Hours

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 type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Peer-reviewer  
statements**

Peer-Review: [☒] Anonymous [☐] Onymous

Conflicts-of-Interest: [☐] Yes [☒] No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this work, the role of IL-34 on the proliferation and epithelial-mesenchymal transition of gastric cancer cells was studied. The results showed that the expression of IL-34 is elevated in GC tissues and cell lines compared to normal gastric tissues or cell lines and IL-34 promotes the proliferation, clone formation, migration and invasion by regulating EMT-related protein expression in GC cells. The study is logically designed, the idea is new and very interesting. Although, there are several concerns that need to be addressed. Comments: 1. It is suggested to added plotting scale in the results of clone formation, migration and invasion assays. 2. IL-34 is a cytokine which mainly secreted out of the cell, why the authors only studied the role of IL-34 in the cell? 3. More work should be added in the discussion section. An in-depth mechanism study is lack in this work. The authors should add more mechanism study in the manuscript, or add your research plan at least. 4. The concept of EMT was first reported in embryology area. EMT is a biological process which is of great importance in embryogenesis and organ development. I suggest that the research process and some discoveries of EMT could be added in the introduction section. Some references could be cited, "Exosomes Regulate the Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition in Cancer", "EMT Transition States during Tumor Progression and Metastasis" and "Pinin Induces Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition in Hepatocellular Carcinoma by Regulating m6A Modification", for example, or any other similar references. 5. I think language polishing from a native speaker of English is necessary.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 03252941

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-05-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-05-31 22:54

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-06-03 09:21

**Review time:** 2 Days and 10 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>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No
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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Li et al investigated the effect of IL-34 on the proliferation, migration, and epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) of gastric cancer cells by using cell lines and animal models. This is a well-designed and well-performed study and the presented data presented are persuasive and convincing. I have some comments. 1. (p.6, l.7) Dilution rate of anti-IL-34 antibody should be described. 2. (p.8, l.9) cds should be spelled out. 3. (Figure 1A) In Tumor, background stromal cells are also stained with anti-IL-34 antibody. To fairly compare staining intensity between Normal and Tumor, section containing transition between Tumor and Normal should be presented. 4. (Figure 3A) It would be helpful to present pathology of tumors transfected with IL-34 cds and mock so as to demonstrate that IL34 overexpression results in EMT.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05429043

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-05-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-05-31 04:38

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<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="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1. "Trastuzumab is the main drug for targeted therapy of gastric cancer, but the percentage of HER2-positive patients(1) " the sentence seems to be vivid 2. The methodology should be systematically arranged ...Ethical clearance number for clinical sample and animal study are importance 3. All figures need 300DPI resolution and a visible size..now it looks no clarity.... 4. Figure legends need to be re- written with more clarity. 5. Flow is lacking in the manuscript.Please correct it 6.Result part need to be modified with more recent reference 7. Quantification of blots is needed 8.No mention about statistical analysis in detail



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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 06269450

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-05-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

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**Review time:** 10 Days and 14 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="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No
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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

**Title:**The title reflects the main subject of the manuscript. **Abstract:**The abstract basically summarizes and reflects the work described in the manuscript. **Key words:**The key words reflects the focus of the manuscript. **Background:**The epidemiology of gastric cancer in China or in the world and the current 5-year survival rate should be described in more detail. The mechanism of EMT in GC and how IL-34 affects tumor proliferation through EMT should be reviewed in detail. **Methods:**The manuscript describes materials and methods in adequate detail. The research objectives adequately achieved by the experiments used in this study. **Results:**The results showed that the expression of IL-34 is increased in GC tissues and cell lines, IL-34 is positively correlated with the proliferation and metastasis of gastric cancer cells. The mechanism may be related to the regulation of EMT related protein expression. **Discussion:**There was little analysis of the results in the discussion. The relationship between EMT and the proliferation and metastasis of gastric cancer and the role of IL-34 in it can be discussed. **Illustrations and tables:**The figures, diagrams and tables sufficient are good quality and appropriately illustrative of the paper contents. **Biostatistics:**The manuscript meets the requirements of biostatistics. **Units:**The manuscript meets the requirements of use of SI units. **References:**References meet requirements.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05429043

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-05-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Han Zhang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-07-27 07:23

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-07-27 07:37

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ☐ ] Yes [ ☒ ] No

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

Please replace the non-native language editing certificate uploaded with the right one.

Now it is uploaded as ARRIVE file

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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**Reviewer's code:** 06286468

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Han Zhang

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**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript was revised well. I have no new comment.

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**Professional title:** Doctor, Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-05-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Han Zhang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-07-27 11:50

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-07-27 11:57

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors responded fairly well to my comments.