

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 84004

Title: SGK3 overexpression correlates with a poor prognosis in endoscopically resected superficial esophageal squamous cell neoplasia: A long-term study

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06129259

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: South Korea

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-02-24

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-02-27 03:55

Reviewer performed review: 2023-03-08 02:38

Review time: 8 Days and 22 Hours

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| 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 Grade E: Do not publish |
| Novelty of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty |
| Creativity or innovation of this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation |

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| Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance |
| Language quality | <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 |
| 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: <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 article analyzed the relationship between the expression level of SGK3 in ESCN and clinicopathological features of ESCN by IHC. The authors claimed that SGK overexpression is a worse prognostic factors for ESCN after endoscopic resection. However, there are some question about the article. 1. Most of patients did not experience recurrence or metastasis. Please list the cause of death of both group (SGK3-overexpression and SGK3-normal). 2. Please explain in the discussion why the overexpression of SGK3 resulted in worse prognosis although the complete resection was performed. 3. Please exclaim the clinical impact about examining IHC for SGK3 in ESCN. For example, if we detected ESCN and perform a biopsy before treatment, the result of IHC for SGK3 in specimen would affect decision-making about treatment (endoscopic resection, surgical resection, chemotherapy, radiotherapy) ? 4. More than half of ESCNs overexpressed SGK3. This finding mean that SGK3-normal ESCN has a better outcome, rather than the explanation that SGK3-overexpressed ESCN has a worse outcome. 5. Please unify the name of the control group (normal or negative).

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Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06120635

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Taiwan

Author's Country/Territory: China

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| 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 |
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| | Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I read with a great interest the article titled "SGK3 overexpression correlates with poor prognosis in endoscopically resected superficial esophageal squamous cell neoplasia: a long-term study" by Xu N et al. I have some revisions to suggest. 1. The authors used the term 'esophageal squamous cell neoplasia (ESCN)', 'esophageal cancer' and 'squamous cell carcinoma' alternatively. However, ESCN includes low-grade intraepithelial neoplasia (LIN), high-grade intraepithelial neoplasia (HIN), squamous cell carcinoma in situ, squamous cell carcinoma. Nevertheless, the authors conducted this study using 92 ESCN consisted of HIN and squamous cell carcinoma. If the authors want to take the term ESCN, 'esophageal cancer' and 'squamous cell carcinoma' should be discarded as an alternative term. If the authors want to take the term esophageal cancer or squamous cell carcinoma, HIN should not be collected as a research materials. 2. Immunohistochemical expression pattern should be revised as SGK3 rather than ERBB3 (page 8, the last sentence). 3. Figure 1: 1) LIN is not categorized into esophageal cancer. 2) EP indicates HIN and squamous cell carcinoma in situ. 4. Figure 2: 1) All figures (A~D) are HIN? Give the classification of the neoplasia to the each photos. 2) There is no



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cytoplasmic membranous staining of the SGK3 anywhere. C showed only nuclear staining and D showed nuclear staining with cytoplasmic overstaining only. 5. Table 1:

| Differentiated types | High | Middle | Low | should be revised as |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Well-differentiated | Intermediate differentiated | Poorly differentiated | | |