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Dear Reviewer,

We thank you for your constructive critique and comments

Major issues

1. The references have been revised and corrected as you recommended.

2. Regarding the quantification of PCR and internal control: The RNA purity was assessed by The RNA concentration and quantified by NanoDrop ND-1000 (Nanodrop, USA). Single-stranded cDNAs were generated using the RT kit according to the manufacturer's directions. PCR quantification experiments were performed with PCR (Applied Biosystems; Foster City, CA) using the SYBR Green PCR Master Mix according to the manufacturer's protocol. The primers for microRNA -122 and -221 were supplied by Qiagene, Germany. The housekeeping miRNA SNORD68 was used as the endogenous control. Fluorescence measurements were made in every cycle and the cycling conditions used were: 95°C for 30s, and 40 cycles of 95°C for 5s and 60°C for 34s. Expression of miRNAs was reported as ΔCt value. The ΔCt was calculated by subtracting the Ct values of miRNA SNORD68 from the Ct values of the target miRNAs. As there is an inverse correlation between ΔCt and miRNA expression level, lower ΔCt values were associated with increased miRNA. The resulting normalized ΔCt values were used in calculating relative expression values by using 2- Δ(Ct), these values are directly related to the miRNA expression levels. The 2-ΔΔ (Ct) method was used to determine relative-quantitative levels of individual miRNAs.

3. Regarding the sequence of our used primers , we have used ready-made assays from Qiagen by miSCript system with the following Cat. No#:

NO	Accession Number	miRNA ID	Catalog Number
micro 1	MIMAT0000421	hsa-miR-122	MS00003416
micro 2	MIMAT0000278	hsa-miR-221	MS00003857
HK	NR_002450	SNORD68	MS00033712

This has been added to methods section.

4. In page 13, the table is actually meant to be table 3 as you noted, this has been corrected.

Minor issues

1. Line spacing has been uniformed.

2. The same format for writing mir-122 and mir-221 has been used throughout the manuscript as you recommended.

3. Regarding details of the kits used:

   We have used miSCript miRNA PCR system offered by Qiagen:

   - miRneasy mini kit (Cat. No#. : 217004) for miRNA extraction
   - miScript RT II (Cat. No#. : 218161) for miRNA reverse transcription
   - miSCript Primer Assay (Cat. No#. : 218300) and miSCript SYBR Green PCR Kit (Cat. No#. : 218037) for PCR Amplification

4. In table 3 “LC” has been changed to “cirrhosis”.