

## Biostatistics statement

Dear Editor:

In this study, the normal distribution of variables was assessed prior to selecting the tests to use for statistical analyses. The *W* value for the Shapiro-Wilk method and the *D* value of Kolomogorove method were used in the tests for normality. The gene expression were analyzed using either the nonparametric one-way analysis of variance or unpaired *t* test, survival rates were analyzed by log rank analysis, and the correlation between outcomes of patients and miRNAs expression profiles were analyzed by Mann-Whitney *U* tests. We had rechecked all the statistical analysis in this paper for several times.

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