

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

Manuscript NO: 46385

Title: SFR Expression Correlates with EMT-linked Genes and Poor Overall Survival in Colon Cancer Patients

Reviewer's code: 00041514

Reviewer's country: South Korea

Science editor: Jin-Lei Wang

Date sent for review: 2019-02-15

Date reviewed: 2019-02-19

Review time: 8 Hours, 4 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

SFRP4 is a gene that is often suppressed by methylation, and colon cancer cells are also known to exhibit such epigenetic changes. Nevertheless, this paper claims that the expression of SFRP4 is associated with a poor prognosis of patients with colon cancer.



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This paper also shows that SFRP4 is more expressed in tumors with high tumor stroma ratios and that there exist positive correlations between expression of SFRP4 and EMT-related genes, which is unlikely considering the biological role of SFRP4, inhibition of WNT signaling. Thus, it needs to be clarified whether the expression of SFRP4 occurs in colon tumor cells or in stromal cells. Therefore, the authors should perform experiments exploring whether expression of SFRP4 occurs in stroma and tumor cells suppress the expression of SFRP4 by methylation. This paper is not a treatise on EOCC. The conclusion of the discussion is that EOCC's SFRP4 is a determinant of prognosis. This paper deals with colon cancer from young and old patients, not young patients (EOCC).

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

Manuscript NO: 46385

Title: SFR Expression Correlates with EMT-linked Genes and Poor Overall Survival in Colon Cancer Patients

Reviewer's code: 00058340

Reviewer's country: United States

Science editor: Jin-Lei Wang

Date sent for review: 2019-02-15

Date reviewed: 2019-02-20

Review time: 3 Hours, 5 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The topic and the concept that SFRP4 expression correlates with EMT-linked genes and poor survival in colon cancer are interesting. Comments 1. In the title EMT should be fully spelled out 2. Please provide for the readers more information regarding the



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Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA), e.g, who developed it, and data set from TCGS, the authors used, e.g. number of patients in groups. 3. Progression of colon cancer and metastasis are dependent, in part, on angiogenesis. In this respect, SFRP4 inhibits endothelial cell migration and the development of sprouts and pseudopodia as well as disrupts the stability of endothelial rings in addition to inhibiting proliferation. sFRP4 interfered with endothelial cell functions by antagonizing the canonical Wnt/ β -catenin signaling pathway and the Wnt/planar cell polarity pathway. Most importantly, SFRP4 restricted tumor growth in mice by interfering with endothelial cell function. The data demonstrate sFRP4 to be a potent angiogenesis inhibitor that warrants further investigation as a therapeutic agent in the control of angiogenesis-associated pathology (A. Muley et al. (Secreted Frizzled-Related Protein 4 An Angiogenesis Inhibitor. Am J Pathol. 2010 Mar; 176: 1505–1516). The authors should discuss this aspect. 4. The manuscript contains too many abbreviations, which make it difficult to read. 5. The authors should provide a diagram summarizing their concept how SFRP4 expression causes poor survival in colon cancer. .

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
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BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication



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[] Plagiarism

[Y] No