

Reviewers comments:

Reviewing 21 studies, the authors' careful meta analysis indicated the important messages, that abnormally expressed circular RNAs may be used as another diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers for hepatocellular carcinoma. Although HCC is one of the most common malignant tumors in the world, there is a great need for better tumor markers for early detection and continuous follow up for detection of recurrences. Authors are commended for this work.

**Answer:** All authors really appreciate the comments from the reviewers. The current meta-analysis assessed the diagnostic, prognostic, and clinicopathological features of circRNAs in HCC, and the results may contribute to a better understanding of the potential clinical application (indicator for early diagnosis, and prognosis prediction) of abnormal circRNAs in HCC.