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Dear Editor,
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Thank you for kindly reviewing our article entitled, 'Biomarkers in Hepatocellular Cancer', and for allowing us the opportunity to submit a revision of this article for consideration of publication in your journal. We have attempted to address the reviewers' concerns to the best of our ability. Specific comments are found below.

Review # 1.

We are grateful for this reviewer's comment that this is a fairly good article concerning an important topic. We have added some paragraphs specifically related to non-coding RNA as well as circular RNA. We recognize that this is a rapidly evolving field and that it should be included.

Reviewer # 2.

We agree with the learned reviewer that there is some redundant material and the manuscript has been accordingly revised. As with the first reviewer's comments, the theme of non-coding RNA is indeed an important one, and so we have added a section on this particular item to the manuscript. Also, the format of the manuscript has been altered to improve readability.

Due to the *clinical* importance of the composite markers such as 'GALAD', especially in light of the fact that the sensitivity and specificity are both very high, as well as the data having been reproduced in very different cohorts in Europe and Japan, we feel that this item should remain. Due to the revised format of the manuscript the section on liquid biopsy has been incorporated into another section.

Reviewer # 3.

Again, we are very grateful to this reviewer for his/her comments.

1. We have added some tables to highlight some of the important points within the manuscript.
2. The scoring models such as GALAD are of importance because of their clinical utility and they incorporate some of the other *biomarkers* discussed, such as AFP, DCP and AFP-L3.
3. We have changed the format of the manuscript which we hope improves its readability and makes it less confusing.
4. The point regarding organizing the manuscript specifically addressing the different types of biomarker is very important. We have changed the format so as to focus on items more specifically, eg diagnostic and those indicating predisposition.
5. The missing punctuation has been added.
6. The changes in GP73 levels have now been added.
7. This point has now been addressed as per the other reviewers' comments, and a section on non-coding RNA has been added; specific examples of lncRNA and circRNA with relevance to HCC are now included.

We hope that the revised version of the article meets with the reviewers' expectations for this journal.

Yours sincerely,

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