

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Stem Cells

**Manuscript NO:** 64490

**Title:** Immunotherapy against programmed death-1/programmed death ligand 1 in hepatocellular carcinoma: Importance of molecular variations, cellular heterogeneity, and cancer stem cells

**Reviewer's code:** 05261716

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Chief Physician, Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-02-18

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-02-18 23:49

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-02-23 04:46

**Review time:** 4 Days and 4 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors reviewed immunotherapy against PD-1/PD-L1 in hepatocellular carcinoma, which will be beneficial for the selection of patient and the management of the ICIs against PD-1/PD-L1. The manuscript is well written and information is fully explained.

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**Manuscript NO:** 64490

**Title:** Immunotherapy against programmed death-1/programmed death ligand 1 in hepatocellular carcinoma: Importance of molecular variations, cellular heterogeneity, and cancer stem cells

**Reviewer's code:** 05121819

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Chief Physician, Consultant Physician-Scientist, Research Scientist

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** India

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-02-18

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-02-26 13:28

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-02-26 13:39

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous

statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors have exhaustively written on the aspects of PD-L1/immune check point blockade in HCC and responsiveness related current knowledge. The paper is well written. It is a very good paper for basic sciences. For a clinician, there is very little to understand and make sense of in here. This paper is more suited for a basic sciences journal rather than a clinical one. However, this decision is left to the editors. I wish the authors would very concisely discuss current knowledge in basic sciences and then provide a clearer picture on its clinical application. This can also include a well made infographic showing clinical translational aspects with molecular variations and response / cellular heterogeneity and response and ultimately role of cancer stem cells. As a clinician who would want to get to the core of the matter, reading through so much of basic sciences jargon and material is quite tedious. If this was meant to be a pure basic sciences paper, then I have no comments, but for a clinician this is a very difficult read, because the flow in simplification is lost.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Stem Cells

**Manuscript NO:** 64490

**Title:** Immunotherapy against programmed death-1/programmed death ligand 1 in hepatocellular carcinoma: Importance of molecular variations, cellular heterogeneity, and cancer stem cells

**Reviewer's code:** 05261716

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Chief Physician, Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-02-18

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-03-26 01:53

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-03-26 01:59

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Grade A: Excellent [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade B: Very good [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade C: Good [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade D: Fair [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Grade A: Priority publishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Accept (High priority) [ <input type="radio"/> ] Accept (General priority) [ <input type="radio"/> ] Minor revision [ <input type="radio"/> ] Major revision [ <input type="radio"/> ] Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

I suggest this manuscript can be published in WJST.