



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

**Manuscript NO:** 69874

**Title:** Prognostic and biological role of the NDRG family in hepatocellular carcinoma

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 04232981

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, MSc, PhD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-07-15

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-07-22 09:09

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-07-31 21:18

**Review time:** 9 Days and 12 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

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

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Manuscript ID: 69874 Manuscript Title: Prognostic and biological role of the NDRG family in hepatocellular carcinoma Manuscript Type: Clinical and Translational Research Journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery In this article, the authors attempted to systematically analyze the role of the N-Myc downstream-regulated gene family in hepatocellular carcinoma. The authors conclude that NDRG1-3 may be the promising biomarker for the diagnosis and prognosis of hepatocellular carcinoma and may provide promising new targets and strategies for hepatocellular carcinoma treatment. However, your article is inadequately presented. Furthermore, there are many grammatical mistakes and spelling mistakes as well. Although the article has scientific rigor, several minor flows need to be improved before publication. Minor Comments: 1. The abstract section is good; need to add a focus point in the abstract section. 2. In the abstract section, rewrite the sentence: "NDRG1-3 may be the promising biomarker for the diagnosis and prognosis of HCC and may provide promising new targets and strategies for HCC treatment". Need to make those lucid and clear. 3. The introduction section is inapplicable and redundant. Try to include the existing research limitations also, how the present research unravels those limits. 4. Also need some more insights on the NDRG1-4. 5. Also, the aim of this study need to separate into a single paragraph in the introduction section. 6. Delete I, we, our throughout the manuscript. 7. NDRG based prognostic signature generation and Mutation and DNA hypomethylation analysis: no references? 8. Tumor microenvironments analysis: Elaborate with valid references. 9. Statistical methods need to change in Statistical analysis. 10. Correlation between tumor infiltrating immune cells and expression of NDRG members: Not well-written. Need to add some more insights.



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11. Figures and tables presentation look good. 12. The discussion is feeble. Please, include the data from other sources about related works. Also, delete the subtitles for the discussion. 13. A sound discussion includes principal, relationships, and generalizations supported by the results. 14. Conclusion has to be improved by including more points (personal recommendation, limitation, etc.). 15. Spacing, punctuation marks, grammar, and spelling errors should be reviewed wholly. 16. English is poor. The authors need to improve their writing style. In addition, the whole manuscript needs to be checked by native English speakers. 17. Originality of the work should be improved by the author (either in the conclusion or introduction section).



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**Reviewer's code:** 05526270

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** BPharm, MS

**Professional title:** Pharmacist, Research Fellow

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-07-15

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-07-28 19:42

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-08-05 22:31

**Review time:** 8 Days and 2 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input 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 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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Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

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

The article covers the characterization of NDRG1-4 expression patterns and their clinical significance, and describes the utility of the omics techniques for analyzing the open-source data. The authors did a lot of hard work in collating and analyzing the NDRG data from different sources, which is something appreciable but on the other hand, this manuscript lacks fluidity, and requires more effort on scientific writing before it could be published. Please find the attached documents for detailed comments on the submitted manuscript. Kind Regards!