

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

**Manuscript NO:** 77733

**Title:** VCAN, expressed highly in hepatitis B virus-induced hepatocellular carcinoma, is a potential biomarker for immune checkpoint inhibitors

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

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 02441569

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-05-21

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-05-23 07:55

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-05-30 02:20

**Review time:** 6 Days and 18 Hours

Scientific quality	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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

1.This article analyzed the role of VCAN in HCC related with HBV and thought that high VCAN could be a possible biomarker of the poor prognosis of HCC, and its' role of immunomodulatory mechanism in HCC deserves attention. This new hypothesis has certain clinical practice guidance. 2.If the references and hypothesis are further validated by expanding the number of cases, liver tissue specimens, and relevant oncology and immunological indicators, the quality of the study will be further improved.

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**Reviewer's code:** 05424290

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MBBS, MD

**Professional title:** Academic Research, Doctor, Professor

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

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

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**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-06-15 17:36

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Scientific quality	<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
Language quality	<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
Conclusion	<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
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<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
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**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Authors have evaluated the expression and clinical significance of VCAN in relation to HBV related cirrhosis in comparison to HCC. I have certain issues. 1. The authors have included only HBV related cirrhosis and HCC. On the other hand, the title of the article reflects its generalizability for HCC. In my opinion, Title should include HBV as etiology of HCC. 2. The study has been conducted in China, wider evaluation of VCAN expression is essential in other geographical regions including diverse ethnic population.