Baishideng Publishing Group

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 83086

Title: Comprehensive analysis of distal-less homeobox family gene expression in colon cancer

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05263312
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: PhD
Professional title: Associate Professor
Reviewer's Country/Territory: China
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-01-06

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-01-07 05:14

Reviewer performed review: 2023-01-10 03:00

Review time: 2 Days and 21 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [Y] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [Y] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Baishideng Publishing Group

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [Y] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [Y] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Chen et al. reported the biological role of the DLX family in COAD. DLX 2/3/4/5/6 were significantly upregulated in COAD patients. The expression of DLX family was associated with M stage, pathologic stage, primary therapy outcome, residual tumor, lymphatic invasion, T stage, N stage, age, perineural invasion, and history of colon polyps. DLX2/5 were independently correlated with the prognosis of COAD in multivariate analysis. The author believed that the DLX gene family can be used as potential diagnostic or prognostic biomarkers and therapeutic targets for COAD. Overall, tables and figures are informative. References are appropriate. My main concern with this work is the real clinical application of this study, because one might wonder if the results are really reliable. In the absence of any convincing independent cohort and associated experimental studies, the results of this study should not be overstated. Specific comments 1. The method of the abstract should be rephrased. A long sentence is very unreadable. 2. CBioPortal analysis: What are the principles and criteria for analyzing cohort selection (CaseCCC, PNAS 2015； CPTAC-2 Prospective, Cell 2019)? Is it random? 3. The missing of supplementary table is the lack of readability of the

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

manuscript. 4. According to the results, some members of DLX are related to M stage, which brings a problem that DLX may be more related to prognosis than to diagnosis. 5. According to the above comments, the corresponding diagnostic efficacy of DLX should not be overstated in the abstract and discussion sections. 6. Similarly, in ROC analysis, the word prediction is inappropriate. 7. The GO and KEGG results are simply lists, with no interpretation of the corresponding results. 8. KEGG results showed that DLX was associated with breast cancer, gastric cancer, melanoma, and basl cell carcinoma, so the diagnostic power of DLX was contradicted.

Baishideng Publishing Group

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 83086

Title: Comprehensive analysis of distal-less homeobox family gene expression in colon cancer

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05478444
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: BSc, MSc, PhD
Professional title: Associate Professor
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Saudi Arabia
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-01-06

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-01-13 07:42

Reviewer performed review: 2023-01-19 11:14

Review time: 6 Days and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	[Y] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	[Y] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Baishideng Publishing Group

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	[Y] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [Y] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript entitled: Comprehensive analysis of Distal-Less homeobox family gene expression in colon cancer, presents an interesting and important study on Distal-Less homeobox (DLX), where less information is known at the moment. The following few points are adviced to be addressed before further steps: -It is important to include abbreviation section. -Abstract Methods: no need to mention software versions here. -Introduction In paragraph No 2, more information is needed about Distal-Less homeobox (DLX). Specially to explain the gab in knowledge and its correlations with the cancer and microbial interactions. -Methods and results are robust and clear.