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ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Clinical Oncology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 8311

Title: Micro-RNAs as promising clinical biomarkers and therapeutic targets in breast cancer: quo vadis?

Reviewer code: 02558601

Science editor: Zhai, Huan-Huan

Date sent for review: 2013-12-25 16:20

Date reviewed: 2014-02-08 20:41

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Review by Gerasimos Socrates Christodoulatos, Maria Dalamaga “Micro-RNAs as promising clinical biomarkers and therapeutic targets in breast cancer: quo vadis?” describes in great details recent achievement in our understanding of relationship between miRNA expression and breast cancer development and progression. Especially they concentrated their attention on differential expression of miRNA during particular steps of development of certain type of Breast Cancer that beginning to be a valid base for building a new diagnostic tools, particularly based on miRNA sending outside of Breast Cancer cells to the blood plasma. Unfortunately missing the full understanding of pluripotential mechanism of action of many miRNA still preventing to be used as a tools for cure of Brest Cancer disease but has quite a promising future as diagnostic tools.



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Title: Micro-RNAs as promising clinical biomarkers and therapeutic targets in breast cancer: quo vadis?

Reviewer code: 00659133

Science editor: Zhai, Huan-Huan

Date sent for review: 2013-12-25 16:20

Date reviewed: 2014-02-10 23:23

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this review, "Micro-RNAs as promising clinical biomarkers and therapeutic targets in breast cancer: quo vadis?", Christodoulatos and Dalamaga present a detailed overview of the role of microRNAs in breast cancer etiopathogenesis, providing results from a large series of studies. In addition, they described microRNAs promising role as non-invasive circulating biomarkers with diagnostic and prognostic significance, treatments response predictors and therapeutics targets in breast cancer patients. While this should be undoubtedly a comprehensive work, as a minireview it should be probably shorter giving more relevance to the potential use of miRNAs, as clinical biomarkers and therapeutic targets, rather than listing so many studies. Major comments 1. The manuscript seems to be too long, especially at the beginning of each paragraph, where several sentences are redundant. 2. The paragraph 2.2.1 "Aberrant expression of miRNAs in BC predisposition", is unclear and should be revised as it apparently mix to different concepts that are: a) the fact that many miRNAs are located in "cancer-associated genomic regions" and so they are often disrupted, in somatic cells during tumorigenesis; b) the fact that many SNPs in miRNA genes or in miRNA target genes in germline cells -- and independently from their possible/putative functional effects -- have been analyzed in association (case-control) studies with some resulting associated with increased/decreased breast cancer risk. A separate paragraph exploring "concept b" and possibly titled "SNPs in miRNA genes or miRNA target genes and genetic susceptibility to BC" can be added (see as an example Ryan et al., 2010 Nat Rev). 3. A Table (or more than one, if necessary) including information of the entire Section 2 has to be added. It needs to list all miRNAs that are deregulated in breast cancer, the pathway/s they affect, a description of where/when they affect tumorigenesis



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(predisposition, initiation, progression or metastasis) and references. This will certainly make easier to the readers obtaining desired information. 4. Similarly, it would be useful to add a Table summarizing information of sections 3 and 4. Minor comments

1. The sentence 'MiRNAs are short, non-coding RNAs of approximately 20 to 25 nucleotides in length that are transcribed either from independent genes or from exons or introns of protein-coding genes' (line 15, page 5) should to be moved after the following one, that is 'Since their initial discovery in 1993 during a study of the gene *lin-4* in *Caenorhabditis elegans*, more than 2000 molecules have been determined in humans so far, regulating the expression of almost 30% of genes'.
2. The word 'oncogens' is misspelled (pag 7, line 9).
3. Two consecutive sentences start with 'Finally' (pag 13, line 28 and 31). These need to be revised.