



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 65808

**Title:** PP R3A gene is an index for predicting poor prognosis of hepatocellular carcinoma undergo liver transplantation

**Reviewer's code:** 02445866

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** FEBS, MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor, Surgeon

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-03-21

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-03-28 16:58

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-04-04 11:30

**Review time:** 6 Days and 18 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

PPP2R3A gene might be a predictor of poor prognosis for hepatocellular carcinoma patients after liver transplantation. A well conducted study, reporting on risk factors of HCC recurrence after liver transplantation. The significance of the study is disclosed by presenting the impact of PPP2R3A expression when combined with the elevated AFP values on OS and RFS. It may in future, become an additional factor when selecting HCC patients for transplantation and adjusting the increasing number of HCC patient selection standards. In spite of good general impression I have few comments: The title of the manuscript does not reflect precisely the main message of the study and presents it as if with some uncertainty. More to that the conclusion in the Abstract and the conclusion section in the body text do not exactly match each other. The authors have stated that "Only the Hangzhou standard includes the molecular marker alpha-fetoprotein (AFP)...". Metro Ticket Project should also be mentioned as it similarly suggests evaluating "Post-transplant survival according to HCC pre-transplant staging and AFP". General characterization of the study population is fine in terms of the used patient selection standard. However, the Milan criteria for liver transplantation in HCC are still assumed as an index selection system in various practice guidelines. It would be very important to know the results of OS and RFS in case the patients were classified according to Milan system. This data would be beneficial for a larger international acceptance allowing for direct comparison of presented data. Recalculating and presenting additional version of your data based on Milan in- and out- criteria would be of importance fostering a discussion whether the Milan criteria are too stringent and have to be universally updated. Reliable data is needed to show the validity or weakness of this classical selection system. There is too much emphasis (excessive information) on the role of PPP2R3A in other tumors (citations 26 to 30). Language Misprints, word



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omissions, capital letters – the text needs technical editing.



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 65808

**Title:** PP R3A gene is an index for predicting poor prognosis of hepatocellular carcinoma undergo liver transplantation

**Reviewer's code:** 01798570

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Full Professor, Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-03-21

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-03-31 10:42

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-04-06 07:12

**Review time:** 5 Days and 20 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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

The study analyze the clinical significance and prognostic value of PPP2R3A expression in liver cancer patients who underwent LT. There are some areas where the manuscript needs to be strengthened. Specific comments: The study designs and methods are appropriate, and the interpretations of the results are reasonable. Authors should also mention criteria other than Hangzhou criteria for afp used for post-transplant survival and prognosis. Authors should explain why they use a semi-quantitative method for PPP2R3A expression. Could a quantitative method be better for measuring PPP2R3A expression?. The limitations of the study should be stated in the discussion section.