

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 56071

Title: Identification of APEX2 as an oncogene in liver cancer

Reviewer's code: 00227375

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-04-17

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-05-14 09:54

Reviewer performed review: 2020-05-18 10:53

Review time: 4 Days

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 Grade E: Do not publish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

This is an interesting manuscript about the expression of APEX2 and its potential mechanism in liver hepatocellular carcinoma (LIHC). APEX2 is overexpressed in LIHC, and the higher APEX2 level shows worse prognosis in overall survival. In addition, APEX2 expression is positively correlated with the pro-oncogenic pathways. Knockdown of APEX2 can inhibit the cell viability. The authors have demonstrated that the inhibitor against APEX2 may be a promising therapeutic strategy in the treatment of liver cancer. This manuscript is nicely structured and well written. I have no question about this manuscript.

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 56071

Title: Identification of APEX2 as an oncogene in liver cancer

Reviewer's code: 02544751

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Doctor, Professor, Surgeon

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Slovakia

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-04-17

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-05-18 19:04

Reviewer performed review: 2020-05-24 21:27

Review time: 6 Days and 2 Hours

Scientific quality	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Grade A: Excellent [<input type="radio"/>] Grade B: Very good [<input type="radio"/>] Grade C: Good [<input type="radio"/>] Grade D: Fair [<input type="radio"/>] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Grade A: Priority publishing [<input type="radio"/>] Grade B: Minor language polishing [<input type="radio"/>] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [<input type="radio"/>] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Accept (High priority) [<input type="radio"/>] Accept (General priority) [<input type="radio"/>] Minor revision [<input type="radio"/>] Major revision [<input type="radio"/>] Rejection
Re-review	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Yes [<input type="radio"/>] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Recension of manuscript No. 56071: „ Identification of APEX2 as an oncogene in liver cancer, written by Ru Zheng, Hengliang Zhu, Bingren Hu, Xiaojiao Ruan, Huajie Cai”, which will be published in World Journal of Gastroenterology. The structure of manuscript is in keeping with the common required criteria. The topic of the work is very actual, because liver hepatocellular carcinoma is one of the most malignant tumors, and the death rate ranks 5th by the newly report. DNA damage is a major risk in the process of cancerization, and apyrimidinic endodeoxyribonuclease was identified as an important molecule, which involved in the regulation of DNA damage. Apyrimidinic endodeoxyribonuclease contains two genes, which named as APEX1 and APEX2. APEX1 has been widely reported in the many cancers, especially in the liver cancer. APEX1 was recently reported as a new diagnostic and prognostic biomarker for liver hepatocellular carcinoma (LIHC). However, the role of APEX2 in LIHC still remains poorly understood. The authors found that APEX2 is identified as an oncogene in liver cancer, the overexpression of APEX2 could be a poor prognosis factor, and knockdown of APEX2 can disrupt the proliferation activity, thus the inhibitor against APEX2 may be a promising therapeutic strategy in the treatment of liver cancer. Work is clearly legible, brings summarizes new knowledge. The citations are actual and their format respect usual standards. The conclusion reflects the author’s results and these can be accepted. I recommend the manuscript to be published. Kosice, 24. May 2020 MUDr. Jana Katuchova, PhD. Professor of Department of Surgery University Hospital Košice Slovakia