

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 15404

**Title:** SLITRK3 expression correlation to gastrointestinal stromal tumor risk rating and prognosis

**Reviewer's code:** 02440467

**Reviewer's country:** Italy

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-11-26 10:15

**Date reviewed:** 2014-12-12 03:02

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this study the Authors aimed to assess the influence of SLITRK3 on the prognosis of gastrointestinal stromal tumour (GIST) and determine whether different degrees of SLITRK3 expression were significantly associated with overall survival (OS) and whether this can help to improve the current risk stratification systems according to tables published by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for GIST. The SLITRK3 expression was graded according to Immunohistochemistry (IHC) evaluation of a combination of staining intensity and staining area from 0 to 3 and both into 4 degree of IHC classification: negative, weakly positive, positive, strongly positive. They conclude that patients with poor prognosis and reduced OS showed the highest SLITRK3 expression, especially those who also were in the NIH high-risk groups. In conclusion, the Authors propose SLITRK3 as a novel prognostic molecular biomarker that may help guide treatment of GIST. The study is well conducted, the statistical methodology seems appropriate and the paper is well written. Some questions can arise about the use of these immunohistochemical biomarkers in the daily clinical practice and how and whether they can have a role in modifying our therapeutic strategies. The



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methodology of evaluation of the staining intensity into 4 degree has not a precise landmark and requires a short comment from the Authors. In conclusion this study seems innovative and may offer a hope for a positive impact in the clinical practice. Two very small typos: pag 5 Expression of these proteins enables pag 11 DISCUSSION. GLIST can be GIST

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 15404

**Title:** SLITRK3 expression correlation to gastrointestinal stromal tumor risk rating and prognosis

**Reviewer's code:** 02729147

**Reviewer's country:** China

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-11-26 10:15

**Date reviewed:** 2015-01-01 21:02

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [ Y] No	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [ Y] No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript is good paper, I agree with to publish. But in the paper, there have some grammar and spelling mistakes.

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 15404

**Title:** SLITRK3 expression correlation to gastrointestinal stromal tumor risk rating and prognosis

**Reviewer's code:** 03026418

**Reviewer's country:** China

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-11-26 10:15

**Date reviewed:** 2014-12-03 20:50

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors compared the relative expression levels of SLITRK3 between GISTs and their adjacent tissues; the expression of SLITRK3 was further correlated with patient survival data to demonstrate its prognostic value in GIST patients. Several concerns on this study are listed below: 1. The controversies in the management of GIST mainly derive from the malignant potential of small, classified low-risk tumors, rather than large, high-risk ones. In this sense, studies investigating novel biomarkers of GIST should focus more on the joint value of current risk classification systems added by any potential markers. The author may need to provide more data regarding this issue. Specifically, the expression level of SLITRK3 in initial small, "low risk" GISTs that eventually recurred; whether the adding of SLITRK3 increased the prognostic accuracy of the disease, hence at least partly solve the long-standing clinical dilemma. 2. Differential SLITRK3 expression levels in a series of GIST specimens/adjacent tissues determined by western-blot analysis would be more convincing; IHC images only tell part of the story. 3. Relative RNA and protein levels between eventually recurrent and non-recurrent patients need to be provided if the authors intend to develop



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this protein as a biomarker for recurrence and metastasis.

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 15404

**Title:** SLITRK3 expression correlation to gastrointestinal stromal tumor risk rating and prognosis

**Reviewer's code:** 02530212

**Reviewer's country:** South Korea

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-11-26 10:15

**Date reviewed:** 2014-12-26 15:01

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	PubMed Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
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		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

We have known that prognostic biomarkers are very important to establish treatment strategies for gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST). This study revealed us that SLIT and NTRK-like family member 3 (SLITRK3) could be used as a prognostic molecular biomarker for GIST and SLITRK3 expression is a highly significant predictor of GIST recurrence and metastasis.