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ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7568

Title: MT1M and MT1G Promoters Methylation as Serum Biomarkers for Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Reviewer code: 02444769

Science editor: Qi, Yuan

Date sent for review: 2013-11-25 15:17

Date reviewed: 2013-11-25 21:43

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

major concern comes from the study design: when you mix HBV(+) and HBV(-) HCCs to compare with the CHB patients, your result will be misleading. second, there should be exclusion criteria: I can not find information about any therapy the HCCs received before methylation study. for example, TACE might be a confounding factor. why there is no followup data?



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Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7568

Title: MT1M and MT1G Promoters Methylation as Serum Biomarkers for Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Reviewer code: 02444790

Science editor: Qi, Yuan

Date sent for review: 2013-11-25 15:17

Date reviewed: 2013-11-26 13:44

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	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

General This was a diagnostic trial. The result was interesting and had a clinical relevancy. The experimental design was acceptable. Language should be polished. **Specific** Conclusion, "MT1M and MT1G promoters methylation may be serum biomarkers for detection of HCC" is OK. "...an valuable tumor" should be "a...". How to diagnose HCC? How many cases were confirmed by pathological data, and how many cases diagnosed with clinical findings? How to calibrate the tumor size? Ultrasound or CT? Correlation between the methylation and tumor size should be interpreted. Linear or rank correlation? Table 2 only demonstrated a difference between ≥ 5 and < 5 cm tumors. This was a diagnostic trial. I suggest that the 95% confidence interval be listed. There were only 31 cases of normal control. This was a limitation which may lead to a bias. This should be discussed briefly. AFP was used to detect HCC in the present regime. I suggest that the sensitive and specificity of MT1M and MT1G was compared with those of AFP.



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Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7568

Title: MT1M and MT1G Promoters Methylation as Serum Biomarkers for Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Reviewer code: 02444752

Science editor: Qi, Yuan

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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	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the present study, MT1M and MT1G promoter methylation are reported as serum biomarkers for HCC, which might be interesting for clinical practice. Overall, the manuscript was well organized. However, the treatment information of patients and the time of blood sampling should be added in the section of "MATERIALS AND METHODS". Furthermore, there are still some grammatical (e.g., "either or neither of MT1M and MT1G methylated" in page 18) and spelling (e.g., "fucused" in page 7) mistakes in the text. Again, "n(%)" in Table 2 and "N(%)" in Table 3 should be instead of "N", because there are no percentage data in these two tables.