

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 15468

**Title:** MicroRNA-185-5p mediates the regulation of SREBP2 expression by HCV core protein

**Reviewer's code:** 02861340

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2014-11-27 09:52

**Date reviewed:** 2014-12-07 21:00

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		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"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this study, the authors showed that HCV core protein increased cholesterol level in HepG2 cells. HCV core also slightly augmented mRNAs for SREBP2 and HMGCR. Insertion of SREBP2 3'-UTR downregulated the luciferase activity, and this effect was enhanced by HCV core. One of the putative responsive miRNAs, miR-185-5p targeted SREBP2 3'-UTR, and downregulated SREBP2 mRNA. HCV core decreased miR-185-5p, which was suggested to be responsible to the augmentation of SREBP2 level. The specific comments are shown below. 1) Although the augmentations of mRNA for SREBP2 and HMGCR were slight (Fig. 1c), the difference in protein expressions of these was more remarkable (Fig. 1d). What is the explanation? 2) In Fig. 3E, it seems to the reviewer that there is no difference of SREBP2 expression between the two lanes. 3) The authors cannot conclude that the increase of SREBP2 expression by HCV core is mediated by miR-185-5p from Fig. 4. It is still possible that the increase of SREBP2 by HCV core and the decrease of SREBP2 by miR-185-5p occur independently that is not related with each other. 4) Is depletion or inactivation of miR-185-5p able to increase cholesterol level?



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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 15468

**Title:** MicroRNA-185-5p mediates the regulation of SREBP2 expression by HCV core protein

**Reviewer's code:** 02995238

**Reviewer's country:** China

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

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

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this manuscript, the author analyzed the mechanism that HCV core protein can increase intracellular cholesterol Synthesis, that is, HCV can regulate the SREBP2 via MicroRNA-185-5p. But a few of improvements of the manuscript in a revised Version can be also needed. The author mainly confirmed the expression of SREBP2 was regulated by miR-185-5p, so the title is very necessary to be revised. HepG2 cell line was commonly used to study the pathogenesis of liver neoplasm. The author use it to study the liver cholesterol metabolism whether a credible report support or not. P value should be an exact figure. Editing of language by a native English speaker is recommended.