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## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 32489

**Title:** Tumor-associated autoantibodies are useful biomarkers in immunodiagnosis of  $\alpha$ -fetoprotein-negative hepatocellular carcinoma

**Reviewer's code:** 03645039

**Reviewer's country:** Taiwan

**Science editor:** Jin-Lei Wang

**Date sent for review:** 2017-01-11 10:12

**Date reviewed:** 2017-01-25 17:47

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] 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"/> 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"/> [ Y] 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"/> [ Y] No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Very good study. After some minor revision of the language, it can be accepted for publication.



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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 32489

**Title:** Tumor-associated autoantibodies are useful biomarkers in immunodiagnosis of  $\alpha$ -fetoprotein-negative hepatocellular carcinoma

**Reviewer's code:** 03679410

**Reviewer's country:** Greece

**Science editor:** Jin-Lei Wang

**Date sent for review:** 2017-01-11 10:12

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y ] Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y ] 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"/> [ ] 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"/> [ 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 type="checkbox"/> [ Y ] No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this study, the authors determined the prevalence and diagnostic value of autoantibodies in AFP-negative hepatocellular carcinoma. Partially positive sera were further evaluated by Western blotting. Immunohistochemistry was used to detect the expression of three tumor-associated antigens in AFP-negative HCC and normal control tissues. The frequency of autoantibodies to three TAAs in AFP-negative HCC sera was significantly higher than in chronic liver diseases and normal human controls as well as AFP-positive HCC. When the three autoantibodies were combined, the sensitivity reached 30.4% and the specificity remained 91.6%. Autoantibodies to NPM1, 14-3-3zeta and MDM2 may be useful biomarkers for immunodiagnosis of AFP-negative HCC. This study is very interesting. It can be accepted for publication.