

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

ESPS manuscript NO: 21417

Title: Plasma chitinase 3-like 1 is persistently elevated during first month after minimally invasive colorectal cancer resection

Reviewer's code: 02531403

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji

Date sent for review: 2015-07-14 18:18

Date reviewed: 2015-09-29 19:21

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" 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"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" 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		[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

Dear authors I read with interest the manuscript n.21417. IT is a well written manuscript about an interesting topic, but I have some minor remark: 1. Please spell IRB in the abstract 2. Please make shorter the introduction 3. Please compare data from scientific literature about the levels of chi3l1 in invasive surgery; IT should be helpful to add a table about 4. Please compare the clinical implications of the results about chi3l1 with those arising from the other available aforementioned markers

Sincerely

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

ESPS manuscript NO: 21417

Title: Plasma chitinase 3-like 1 is persistently elevated during first month after minimally invasive colorectal cancer resection

Reviewer's code: 00505564

Reviewer's country: United States

Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji

Date sent for review: 2015-07-14 18:18

Date reviewed: 2015-10-09 08:48

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> 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

Intriguing article indeed. In the research paper "Plasma Chitinase 3-Like 1 persistently elevated During First Month after Minimally Invasive Colorectal cancer Resection" authors describe a results of a small study in which they assessed blood levels of CHI3L1 after minimally invasive colorectal resection. The paper is written in a good language, the logic is clear and the subject and results are discussed graphically and meaningfully. However, it can be advised to authors to address a few issues before this paper will be published. 1) The title is probably missing the "is": "...is persistently elevated..." 2) The Conclusion in the Abstract should follow obviously from the results obtained in this particular study; now it's more describing the authors' hypothesis on the pathogenesis of colorectal cancer recurrence, as the levels of other proangiogenic proteins were not studied here, as well as no experiments have been done on how exactly CHI3L1 promotes the growth of residual tumor. It should be reformulated so that it follows directly from the findings of the research, and does not include guesses arisen after the literature analysis. 3) The introduction is well written but sometimes it reminds more a discussion. If possible, it should be made shorter and express more of a



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clear statement of why this research has been done and what authors wanted to investigate. 4) Concerning statistical analysis in the paper: it is known that the human populations are usually highly heterogeneous, and unless the sample sizes are large enough (200 and more) the normality of distribution should be checked prior to making any comparisons. It can be advised to authors that they perform this analysis (for example, Shapiro-Wilks test or any other); if the data in all groups is distributed normally then the current analysis and description can be retained. But if the data is not distributed normally, neither T-test can be used, nor can the results be described as means \pm standard deviation; instead, medians and quartiles should be used, the comparisons should be performed with non-parametric tests, and the figure should rather show box plots or dot plots of data, not the bars of mean with standard deviation.

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

ESPS manuscript NO: 21417

Title: Plasma chitinase 3-like 1 is persistently elevated during first month after minimally invasive colorectal cancer resection

Reviewer's code: 02445552

Reviewer's country: Spain

Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji

Date sent for review: 2015-07-14 18:18

Date reviewed: 2015-07-16 19:07

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" 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"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Authors analyzed CRC patients in an IRB approved data/plasma bank who underwent elective MICR. They conclude that persistently elevated CHI3L1 levels, may promote the growth of residual tumor after MICR for cancer. Minor recommendation: - Please, defined IRB - The introduction is too long (2.5 pages). Some sentences of the introduction are more appropriate for the discussion. - It would be interesting to compare these data in patients whom underwent an invasive colorectal surgery. Own data or literature. - The paragraph starting by "The authors conducted a small randomized clinical study ..." and finalizes with "which makes them safe for the early postop period", is too speculative. Please, explain some mechanisms or detail the relationship that authors tried to establish or delete this part.