

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Dec 16, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 23235-review.doc).

Title: Evaluation of Oncogenic Wnt3a Expression as an Estimable Prognostic Marker for HBV-related Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Author: Liu-Hong Pan, Min Yao, Yin Cai, Juan-Juan Gu, Xu-Li Yang, Li Wang, Deng-Fu Yao

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 23235

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

The comments of Reviewers:

The research outputs by the authors are well presented and I enjoyed reading the article although being a retrospective study. The discovery by the authors would invite interest into this molecular biomarker in HCC. **A few suggestions:**

We have revised carefully our manuscript with colored text (Red). The following is a detailed list of response to all comments and criticisms, and changes the authors have been made.

1. The clinical data of HCC patient would better be presented in a table and I would like the author to show how the flow of procuring the patients and tissue sample for the study. Were there any exclusion?

The clinical data of HCC patient have been shown in Table 1. The patient cohort inclusion and exclusion criteria included (a) accurate pathologic diagnosis of primary HCC, (b) complete clinicopathologic and follow-up data, (c) previously untreated and with surgery as the first treatment. The clinical data of HCC patient have been presented in **table 1**, and the inclusion and exclusion criteria have been added in the manuscript.

2. Statistical analysis did not show sample size calculation and can the author include it?

They have been added. Sample size calculation has been involved in the part of statistical analysis.

3. There is no discussion on the limitation of the study faced by the author. Can the author comment?

It has been added. Discussion on the limitation of the study has been done in the penultimate paragraph.

4. Some minor to moderate language polishing is required. Can I suggest that the article be proof read?

They have been corrected and language has been polished.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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ANSWERING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF REVIEWERS

Jan 12, 2016

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 23235

Title: **Evaluation of Oncogenic Wnt3a Expression as an Estimable Prognostic Marker for HBV-related Hepatocellular Carcinoma**

Authors: **Liu-Hong Pan, Min Yao, Yin Cai, Juan-Juan Gu, Xu-Li Yang, Li Wang, Deng-Fu Yao**

Dear Prof. Han Chu Lee, Editor-in-Chief (Associate Editor),

Thanks to you for your very kindly comments about the ESPS Manuscript NO: 23235.

The manuscript has been improved according to your suggestions and some considerations. To the best of our knowledge, and the present paper is the first report that investigated cancerous Wnt3a expression and indicated that it be a novel prognostic marker for HCC. Although multiple key factors along the Wnt/ β -catenin signaling cascade represent potential diagnosis, prognosis, or therapeutic targets. Here the present findings are promising, and the initial evidence confirmed that Wnt3a is one of the key molecules in the Wnt/ β -catenin pathway. However, the further studies should clarify the molecular mechanisms of oncogenic Wnt3a up-regulating expression and its important roles in hepatocarcinogenesis.

Now, some nice results will be published in other article such as the different expression between HCC and their para-cancerous tissues (**Figure 1**), the down-regulation of Wnt3a gene transcription at mRNA level (**Figure 2**) and Wnt3a expression by Western blotting analysis at protein level (**Figure 3**) by specific sgRNA.

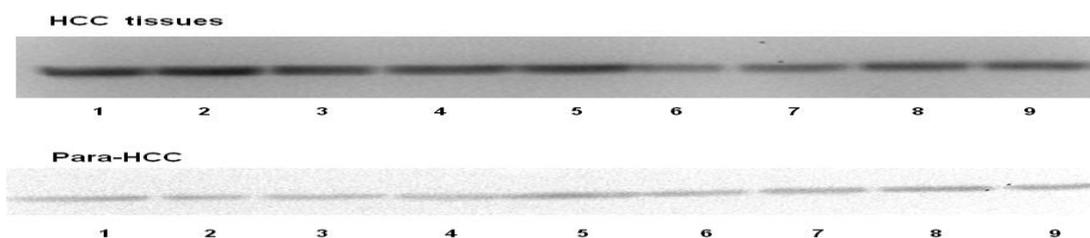


Figure 1 the different expression between HCC and their para-cancerous tissues.

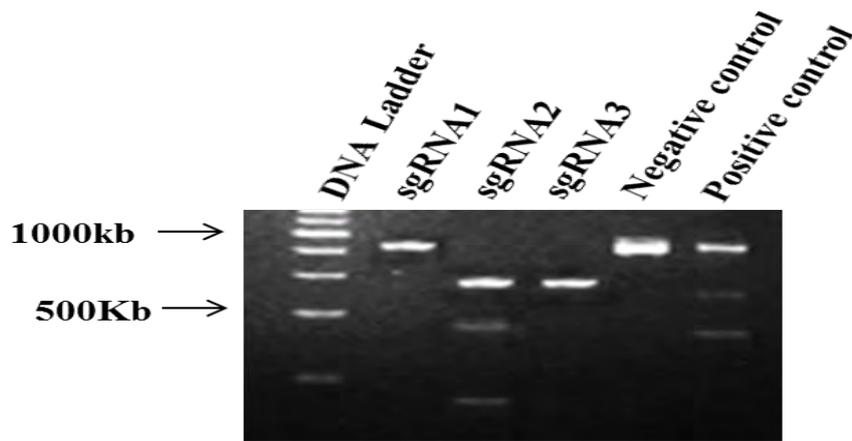


Figure 2 the down-regulation of Wnt3a gene transcription at mRNA level by specific sgRNA.

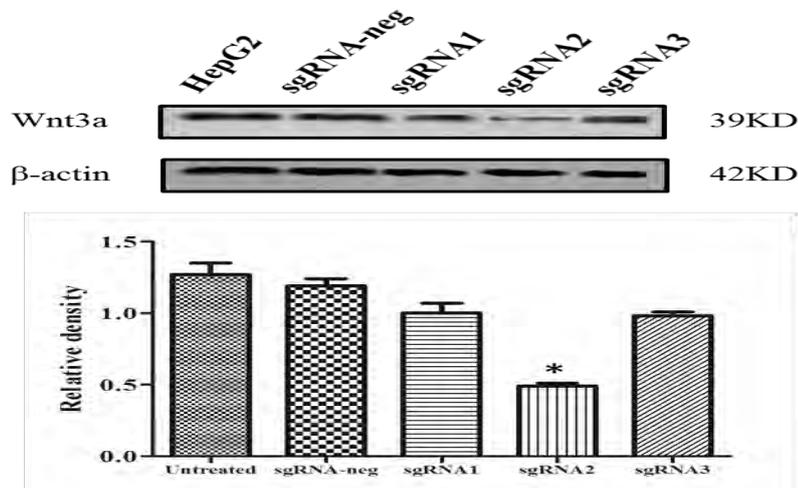


Figure 3 the down-regulation of Wnt3a expression by Western blotting analysis at protein level by specific sgRNA.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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