

## **Reviewer 1**

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This study is very interesting. Methods are acceptable, and results are interesting. The abstract should be re-wrote according to the journal's guideline. Figures are good, however, the figure legends should be re-checked. References are updated, good.

### **Answer**

Thanks for the reviewer' comments. The abstract has been updated according to the journal's guideline, and we have edited the figure legends.

## **Reviewer 2**

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

HBsAg, which is the main marker of HBV infection, can be detected in serum 2 to 6 weeks before ALT elevation. DNA detection of HBV is sensitive to low-level HBV virus in vivo by amplifying viral nucleic acid. This assay is commonly used to assess viral replication, indicating HBV replication and contagiousness. miRNAs regulate the expression of the mRNA and protein of other genes by binding to target mRNAs to participate in various physiological processes, such as growth and development, inflammation, tumors and physiological and pathological processes. In HCC, abnormal expression of multiple miRNAs has been shown to be involved in the malignant biological behavior of liver cancer. There are few studies on the changes of miRNA expression in the progression from HBV infection to hepatoma. In this study, Song et al investigated the profile of miRNAs in chronic hepatitis B, HCC and normal control tissues to explore the role of miRNAs in the development of chronic hepatitis B to liver cancer. The design of this study is very well, the methods are clearly described. The expression of miRNAs is analyzed by the RT-qPCR, the Song et al found that miR-224 was increased, while miR-375, miR-122 and miR-143 were significantly decreased in the tissues of HBV cirrhosis patients compared with the controls. Those results are very interesting. Discussion is acceptable. Some minor language polishing should be revised.

Tables required a minor editing. No further comments.

#### **Answer**

Thanks for the reviewer' comments. We have carefully checked the language, and edited the Tables.

### **Reviewer 3**

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This is an interesting study of miRNAs in the progression of HBV infection to cirrhosis and HCC. Overall, the idea is of practical interest. The size group is relatively acceptable. The organization of the manuscript is perfect and the conclusions are supported by the data obtained. I have no specific comments, I suggest to accept this manuscript as it is.

#### **Answer**

Thanks for the reviewer' comments.

#### **For the IRB Approval Form:**

Dear Editor

The patients enrolled in our study is a part of the project of "Imaging guided radioactive particle implantation for malignant tumors". The Institutional Review Board Approval Form or Document was provided in the attachment, and the related signed informed consent document was also attached in the system. In the signed informed consent document, we have informed patients that all blood tests will be completed in the department of participating research hospital. Blood collection, testing, and retention will be performed according to the management standards of the hospital. And the collected blood will be used for basic scientific research, and the research results may improve the early diagnosis, efficacy evaluation and prognosis evaluation of patients

with malignant tumors.