Reviewer's report

**Title:** A novel biomarker TERTmRNA is applicable for early detection of hepatoma

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 23 December 2009

**Reviewer:** Hans Spangenberg

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors have answered to most of the points of the reviewers. however some important questions have not been solved and should definitely be answered prior to publication.

In my opinion it should be possible to better match the control patients with the HCC patients. This needs further experiments, however, this is crucial for the importance of the findings.

Furthermore comparable studies with hTERT are not sufficiently be addressed in the paper.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.