Author's response to reviews

Title: Association of polymorphisms in survivin gene with the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma in Chinese han population: a case control study

Authors:

Yu hua Li (liyuhua.85@163.com)
Jiao feng Wang (jiaofeng_wang@126.com)
Feng Jiang (jf98@fudan.edu.cn)
Wen yao Lin (wyl@hmcdc.org)
Wei Meng (wmeng@shmu.edu.cn)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Tim Sands,

Thank you very much for your letter and advice. We have revised the paper, and would like to re-submit it for your consideration. We have addressed the comments raised by the reviewers, and the amendments are highlighted in red in the revised manuscript. We hope that the revision is acceptable, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Li Yuhua
2011.07.23
We would like to express our sincere thanks to the reviewers for the constructive and positive comments

Replies to Reviewer Thomas Wex

Specific Comments

1. Major issue:
While the authors shortened the discussion as proposed, it still contains statements about the regulation and carcinogenesis that is not supported by own data or discussed in context with other studies. At the end of paragraph 1 (discussion), the authors conclude that the stability of the survivin-mRNA is not altered (based on which data?). At the end of the discussion and in the conclusion, the authors highlight on “new direction” and the importance of the study to “understand molecular mechanism of HCC...”. These conclusions/statements are not supported by the descriptive study that showed basically negative results with one minor finding. Please revise these sections.

Correction has been made in the discussion and conclusion in the revised version.

2. Minor issues
1)- Figure 1 – 3 do not add significant information, omit them

Figure 1-3 has been deleted.

2)- Correct last line in figure 6, is CC instead of GC

Correction has been made in figure 3 in the revised version.

3)- There are numerous abbreviations used without explaining it at first use (e.g. IAPs, RING, CARD, BIR, EB, CRC, ESCC, CSLC, RFLP ...); check the whole manuscript

Correction has been made in the revised version.
4)- The SNP number should always contain the rs; correct in conclusions and abstract
Correction has been made in conclusions and abstract in the revised version.

5)- check for consistent type and size of letters throughout manuscript and tables
“larger” instead of “lager”
Correction has been made in the revised version.

6)- Unclear meaning / grammar mistakes – please correct these parts
… molecular mechanisms alter in some biological signals …
The expression of survivin is in a cell cycle … ; rather use: Survivin is expressed in
a ……, while a rapid decline in the G1 phase; while it rapidly declines …
… common mutation among cancer cell lines; it is in connection … ; rather
…mutation in cell lines leading to over expression …
Controls were frequency matched …; Controls were matched …
Figures and Tables are shown; not were shown as several times used in the
manuscript
A locus is located; don’t use active form (locates, lies)
Correction has been made in the revised version.

7)  Consider:
… but no difference was found between the proportion of subjects who never
smoked and current smokers.
… illustrating that our subjects presented the source population well.
…were included into models (not pulled)
… ESCC in Chinese population identifying the C allele on …
Yang also described different survivin expression levels …
… that rs8073069 G/C polymorphism was not linked to …
…at least one G allele on rs9904341 had a significantly …
… regarding the potential association of the survivin gene …
Correction has been made in the revised version except the last one ‘…regarding the potential association of the survivin gene …’

Replies to Reviewer Süleyman Bayram

I’m deeply grateful for your time and constructive comments.