Reviewer's report

Title: Grp78 promotes the invasion of hepatocellular carcinoma

Version: 1 Date: 7 September 2009

Reviewer: Wei Dong Zhao

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Su et al.'s manuscript provided evidences that Grp78, an endoplasmic reticulum chaperone, is associated with hepatocellular carcinoma. It is interesting to explore the unidentified underlying mechanisms.

Major point:
In Fig. 4, the relationship between Grp78 and FAK was obscure based on the presented data. Maybe the authors should pay more attention to the negative regulation of RhoA by Grp78, which is demonstrated by Fig. 5.

Minor point:
1. Scale bar should be marked on all the figures;
2. In Fig. 3B, the unit for “area” should be marked and the x-axis labels in Fig. 3B and Fig. 3C is not suitable;
3. For Fig. 5C, the labeled text seems confusing and the figure legend is not clear;
4. The expression level of Grp78 after the knock-down of Grp78 by siRNA in SMMC7721/Grp78 cells should be examined;
5. The negative regulation of RhoA by Grp78 should be mentioned in the discussion part;
6. The possible role of Grp78 during the development of hepatocellular carcinoma should be discussed in the presented manuscript;
7. Grammar and typos should be corrected and it is suggested that the manuscript should be modified by an English-speaking researcher for resubmitting.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.