Reviewer's report

Title: miR-183 inhibits TGF-beta1-induced apoptosis by downregulation of PDCD4 expression in human hepatocellular carcinoma cells

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Reviewer: You-Xin Jin

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Minor Essential Revisions

Authors found that programmed cell death 4 (PDCD4) was identified as the target gene of miR-183. Moreover, PDCD4 is a proapoptotic molecule involved in TGF-β1-induced apoptosis in human HCC cells, they found that miR-183 transfectants were resistant to apoptosis induced by TGF-β1. So they conclude that miR-183 can inhibit apoptosis in human HCC cells by repressing the PDCD4 expression, further supporting the notion that miR-183 functions as an oncogene.

The results are important and can be used in clinic research. The reasons of their conclusion are reasonable. But there are still two minor points that authors can consider.

1. In the part (miR-183 represses the expression of PDCD4), why authors don’t detect the protein levels in an independent series of primary HCC tumors and adjacent nontumoral livers as they do in the part (miR-183 is upregulated in Human HCC)?

2. In the Fig2 when authors say that the target site of miR-183 inPDCD4 3'UTR is conserved, can you give more examples?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.