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: Erwei Song

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
One of the major problems of RNAi gene silencing in mammalian cells are non-specific effects related to off-target effects. The authors should design more than one siPDCD4 to eliminate nonspecific and offtarget effects.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1, The authors described that PDCD4 is down-regulated in human HCC tissues compared to corresponding nontumoral liver tissues. However, there is no data to compare the expression of PDCD4 between HCC and normal liver tissue.
2, The authors tried to prove that miR-183 inhibits TGF-#1-induced apoptosis in Huh7 cells. They'd better to include the control data without the treatment of TGF-#1 in Figure 3 and figure 4.
3, In the figure legend of Figure 3, the author decribed that Western blot analysis were hybrided with antibodies against MCL1, ETS1, CCND1, and #-actin, which is not consistent with the data in figure 3.
4, RQ-PCR is not a golden standard for microRNA expression. The authors should use northern blotting with a specific miR-183 probe to confirm the expression of miR-183 in HCC.

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