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: Iwata Ozaki

Reviewer’s report:

RE: “miR-183 inhibits TGF-b1-induced apoptosis by downregulation of PDCD4 expression in human hepatocellular carcinoma cells” by Li et al.

I have read the revised manuscript and author’s response to the questions raised by reviewers. The authors responded to the most of the questions raised by reviewer’s point by point adequately, however, I still feel a couple of issue remains to be addressed.

The points I feel that remains to be addressed are as follows:

1. The authors examined the PDCD4 mRNA expression in the tumor and corresponding peritumoral tissue according to the several reviewers’ request and concluded miR-183 and PDCD4 mRNA expression showed “significant” negative correlation. However, there is no parameter to show the “significance” of negative correlation. At least, correlation coefficient and P value is necessary to show the “significance”. Furthermore, although the authors add the Table 2 showing the quantitative mRNA data of miR-183 and PDCD4, same data of miR-183 are also listed in Table 1. It seems to be redundant and these data should be summarized in one table.

2. In the reply to the reviewer’s question about miR-21, the authors concluded that miR-21, a known regulator of PDCD4 mRNA, was not involved in the TGF-b1-induced PDCD4 regulation in Huh7 cells because there was no change in miR-21 level after TGF-b1 treatment. However, the no change of miR-21 levels does not directly mean that miR-21 are not involved in PDCD4 mRNA regulation. If the authors insist so, it is required to show that miR-21 does not affect the PDCD4 mRNA level after TGF-b1 treatment in Figure 3. Otherwise changes of miR-183 levels in Huh7 after TGF-b1 treatment should be demonstrated.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.