Reviewer's report


Version: 1 Date: 3 May 2012

Reviewer: Yasunari Nakamoto

Reviewer's report:

The authors studied a cancer gene therapy strategy of AFP enhancer/pgk promoter-driven expression of the dominant negative form of the PP2A catalytic subunit # for HCC treatment. Although the results are interesting in thinking the development of novel therapies for liver malignancies, there are some serious concerns with regard to the following points prior to publication.

Comments (Major Compulsory Revisions):
1. Only one AFP-positive cell line HepG2 was used in the current study. To confirm the specificity and effectiveness on AFP-positive HCC cells, other cell lines could be included in the experiments.

2. To understand the usefulness of cancer gene therapy, the dose-dependent changes of AFP-positive cells (ie. HepG2 cell) by cantharidin and by the recombinant adenovirus (ie. Afpg-DN-PP2Aca) could be evaluated in Figs. 2, 3 and 4.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

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.