Reviewer’s report

Title: Hypoxia induces epithelial-mesenchymal transition via activation of SNAI1 by hypoxia-inducible factor -1a in hepatocellular carcinoma

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Reviewer: Wenlin Huang

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript aimed to investigate the molecular mechanism by which hypoxia promotes HCC invasion and metastasis through inducing EMT. The authors demonstrated that hypoxia-stabilized HIF1# promoted EMT through increasing SNAI1 transcription in HCC cells. I think the experiments were well defined and innovative. The results provided a potential therapeutic target for HCC treatment. However, there are some problems that should be solved before consideration of publication.

Please find below my specific comments.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. For the representative images of CoCl2 treatment groups in figure 3C, the cell number of migration experiment was similar to that of the invasion experiment. However, the mean values of these two groups showed great difference. The authors should check the raw data.

2. The resolution of figure 3C and 4C was too low to be seen in detail. The authors should provide new figures with appropriate clarity.

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