Reviewer's report

Title: Connexin-43 can delay early recurrence and metastasis in patients with hepatitis B-related hepatocellular carcinoma and low serum alpha-fetoprotein after radical hepatectomy

Version: 6 Date: 12 March 2013

Reviewer: shashikiran donthamsetty

Reviewer's report:

major

Major revisions
1) The data is mainly correlative. There is no functional evidence to link Cx43 with HBV induced HCC. If the authors can demonstrate any functional link between Cx43 and HBV induced HCC using either in vitro or in vivo model, it will strengthen the data.

2) What was the HBV genotype in the Patients? Is Cx43 expression, when used as a predictor for better prognosis in HBV-HCC; genotype specific?

3) What were the viral loads of the patients before and after resection? After resection were the patients put on antiviral to lower the viral load? In other words, is Cx43 a predictor for HBV clearance (either spontaneously or by antiviral) rather than HCC reoccurrence?

Minor
1) there were a lot of grammatical error's in the manuscript

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.