Author's response to reviews

Title: The expression level of miR-18b in hepatocellular carcinoma is associated with the grade of malignancy and prognosis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
November 15, 2012
Dear Editor-in Chief
BMC Cancer,

Please find enclosed our manuscript, “The expression level of miR-18b in hepatocellular carcinoma is associated with the grade of malignancy and prognosis”.

Our study focused on the ability of using miRNA expression to determine the grade of histological differentiation in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) using hepatic tissue samples. The degree of histological differentiation is closely related to the progression of HCC and the recurrence-free period after treating HCC, therefore it is critical in the treatment of HCC.

Paying special attention to miR-18b, we show clearly that there is a specific miRNA expression pattern for each grade of histological differentiation. We show that over-expression of miR-18b and suppressed TNRC6B (a target of miR-18b) are involved in the progression of liver cancer. We also implicated miR-18b expression in recurrence of HCC after surgical resection.

Based on our comprehensive analysis, we propose miR-18b to be the most promising multifunctional biomarker currently identified for diagnosing the grade of malignancy and predicting prognosis in HCC. Using miRNA expression as a diagnostic tool can also applied in multiple fields of medicine beyond gastroenterology.

We believe this work is within the scope of BMC Cancer, and we hope that it will be considered for publication. This paper has not been published or submitted elsewhere, and was prepared according to the journal's instruction to authors. I look forward to a reply at your earliest convenience.

with warm regards,

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