Reviewer’s report

Title: miR-372 down-regulates the oncogene ATAD2 to influence hepatocellular carcinoma proliferation and metastasis

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Reviewer: Matthew Lawless

Reviewer’s report:

Topic is interesting. Indeed, a report was published in the journal Oncology in 2012 on miR-372 association with poor prognosis in colorectal cancer, by Mori, M.

However, I cannot see and paper published on miR-372 and ATAD2, which might suggest that this current paper has a novel aspect to it.

- The email address of the author should be an institutional email address rather than a gmail.

- The opening of the paper seems to be well written. However, the second paragraph of the introduction could be written better.

- Overall both ATAD2 and miR-372 appear to be good targets to study and this should be emphasised in the introduction.

- The author should ensure to note that the ATAD gene in HCC was reported to be highly unregulated by Huang Q et al. Plos One 2011. This should be really pointed out in the introduction at the start and maybe even in the abstract.

- However, I cannot seem to see an abstract.

- At the end of the introduction the authors say “several liver cancer cells lines” the author should line out the cell lines used here to be more specific.

- Heading should be looked at, for example the heading “CCK8 assay” could be improved.

- Figure legends are badly formatted etc. and could be much better overall.

- While the authors have collected a good amount of data they should ensure that formatting and quality of figures are improved and are also printable at a level for publication.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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:**

None