Reviewer's report

Title: MiR-199a-5p is up-regulated in gastric cancer and functions as an oncogene by targeting klotho

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Reviewer: Jianming Liu

Reviewer’s report:

The present study was designed to determine the expression of miR-199a-5p in gastric cancer and its functions as an oncogene. Although it is novel, there are some problems as follows:

1. The paper was designed to determine the functions of miR-199a-5p as an oncogene, while in the part of method, a transwell assay was used to evaluate the migration and invasion of gastric cancer cell line, which is not suitable for the determination as an oncogene.

2. In order to identify klotho as a target of miR-199a-5p, it is insufficient only using luciferase reporter assay. It is essential to determine the expression levels of klotho at both the mRNA and protein after the transfection of gastric cancer cells with miR-199a-5p inhibitor or mimic.

3. #Materials and methods, miR-199a-5p transfection, …… MKN-28 and MKN-45, which had high expression level of miR-199a-5p; …….. AGS and BGC-823, which had low expression level of miR-199a-5p. #Results, MiR-199a-5p is up-regulated in gastric cancer tissues and cell lines , …..As shown in Figure 1B, gastric cancer cell lines expressed higher level of miR-199a-5p than GES-1. Which one is right?

4. The gastric cancer cell line transfected with miR-199a-5p inhibitor or mimic should not be the different cells.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests