Reviewer's report

**Title:** Down-regulation of Sirtuin 3 is associated with poor prognosis in hepatocellular carcinoma after resection

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 12 December 2013

**Reviewer:** Deborah Stroka

**Reviewer's report:**

The manuscript has improved once again. Below are some suggestions to improve some awkward sentences in the discussion and conclusion.

Discretionary Revisions

Discussion, page 10:

We systematically investigated the expression pattern and prognostic value of the sirtuin family of proteins in HCC samples obtained from patients undergoing radical resection.

After a comprehensive analysis of data obtained by IHC, we found that Sirt3 showed the most prognostic value.

Discussion, page 11:

It has been proposed that Sirt3 regulates mitochondrial acetylation and ROS generation, thereby providing a possible mechanism for its inhibitory role in cancer. Consistent with this,

…which may lead to better clinical outcomes

Discussion, page 12:

Recently, more studies have revealed that robust production of ROS plays an important role in hepatocarcinogenesis, as ROS can directly induce DNA damage and alter gene expression [39, 40].

Discussion

The present study has shown that intratumoral...

Therefore, further elucidation of the role of Sirt3 in HCC may lead to more effective and specific therapies against this intractable cancer.

**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:

nothing to declare