Reviewer's report

Title: Microvessel density by automated analysis from regenerative nodule to small hepatocellular carcinoma - approach with CD105 and CD34 immunoexpression.

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Reviewer: marie-christine kyrtonis

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In this study, the authors evaluated neoangiogenesis by CD105 and CD34 immunostaining, in hepatocellular carcinoma, preneoplastic lesions and cirrhosis histological sections.

They confirmed previous results and found a higher MVD-105 score in cirrhosis than in HCC while the opposite was true for the MVD-34 score.

Additionally they reported that there was no difference between the two (MVD-105 and MVD-34 scores) in preneoplastic lesions.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The message of the study should be clearer, even if it is only a negative one. The reader understands, as is presented the study, that CD-105 is not useful for differential diagnostic purposes and not safe for therapeutic applications. What about prognostic purposes?

Minor Essential Revisions

In the abstract, the results are not understandable.

In the “Methods”, the final MVD calculation should be better explained as well as the assessment of normality.

The presentation of results should be improved.

Are representative pictures of CD105 and CD34 staining in HCC, RN and DN available?

There are some language mistakes especially in the “Methods” part.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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:

I have no competing interests