Reviewer’s report

Title: Overexpression of SIRT1 promotes metastasis through epithelial-mesenchymal transition in hepatocellular carcinoma

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Reviewer: Youn-Hwa Chung

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Major Compulsory Revisions

In this study, the authors showed a positive role of SIRT1 in the development of HCC in vitro and in vivo. They showed that the enhanced SIRT1 expression increased migration and invasion through EMT in HCC cell lines and further demonstrated that SIRT inhibition with nicotinamide diminished hepatic tumorigenesis in vivo.

Herein the authors clearly observed that SIRT1 play an important role in the development of HCC in vitro and in vivo. Results shown in this manuscript were solid to support their claims. However, we could not see originality except of HCC model because other studies already showed SIRT1 exerts as a promoter in prostate cancer and colon cancer model. The other studies even showed mechanism of SIRT1-mediated tumorigenesis through metalloproteinase-2 or some mircoRNAs in the studies. Although the authors nicely showed their results in vitro, in vivo and in clinical samples, which are phenotype of SIRT1 effect, we lose our interest in this study without the mechanism. We would like to urge a mechanism of SIRT1-mediated EMT for the cancer development in HCC model.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.