Reviewer’s report

Title: The Effect of Proteoglycans Inhibited by RNA Interference on Metastatic Characters of Human Salivary Adnoid Cystic Carcinoma

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Reviewer: Marzia Pennati

Reviewer’s report:

In this manuscript, the authors describe the effects of RNAi-mediated inhibition of XTLY-I on the biological activities (i.e., cell adhesion, migration, invasion, and lung metastasis) of a human salivary gland tumor cell line.

The study is well designed and the methodological approaches used are appropriate. Results from this study could contribute, at least in part, to furnish new ideas for the treatment of the salivary gland tumors, and add new information to the present knowledge of the role of proteoglycans in the metastasis mechanism of this malignancy. However, in order to further strengthen the authors’ conclusions and improve the clarity of the presentation, a few points need to be thoroughly addressed.

Minor points:

1. The authors base their conclusions only on one human salivary gland cancer cell line. Although the results are corroborated by relevant controls for specificity, it would be important to confirm similar results at least in another cell line to assess the generalizability of these findings. If feasible, a transient transfection approach may be appropriate to address this point without embarking in the generation of a stable cell line.

2. Table 2. Replace “shRNA-HK” with “SACC-M-HK”.


4. Figure 3A. The quality of the picture is very poor and it should be changed with a better one.

5. Figure 3B. Verify the label.

6. Figure 4A. The quality of the picture is very poor and it should be changed with a better one.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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 declare that I have no competing interests' below