Reviewer's report

Title: Suitable reference genes for real-time PCR in human HBV-related hepatocellular carcinoma with different clinical prognoses

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Reviewer: Kawin Leelawat

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Li-Yun Fu et al reported an interesting and important finding that selection of Housekeeping genes (HKGs) is important for gene expression analysis in HBV-related hcc with different clinical prognosis.

Major critique:
1) Because Qiang Gao, et al (ref no 24) demonstrated that there was no significant different in HKG expression in the liver cancer tissues derived from HBV-infected and non infected patients. In addition, this previous study also analyzed the suitable HKG in various significant prognostic factors for HCC(TNM stages and tumor invasiveness). This article should explain more for the rationale of this study.

Minor critiques:
1) In figure 4, there is no correlation between each samples (PM, TM, Normal, TNM and PNM). Therefore, this figure should be presented with Bar Graph instade of Line Graph.
2)In table 3, more than 2 types of samples were compared (TM/TNM, Normal/TM), The ANOVA (parametric)or Mann-Whitney U test (nonparametric) should be used instead of 2 sample t test.
3) There is some mistake in Reference no 8, "Genomics" not "Cenomics"

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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'