Reviewer’s report

Title: The role of cytoplasmic p57 in invasion of hepatocellular carcinoma

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Reviewer: Robert Eferl

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Nuclear staining of p57 is not evident in Figure 1A. The authors should label nuclei that are considered to be p57-positive with arrows. There seem to be no coflin-positive cells in Figure 1C. Have the brownish vesicles been considered as coflin-positive signals? Cofilin IHC-staining of cancer tissues including hepatocellular carcinoma looks different. The reliability of the correlations between nuclear p57 with tumor size, cytoplasmic p57 with metastasis as well as cytoplasmic absence of p57/cofilin with TNM stage and metastasis require improved stainings which should be provided in Figure 1.

2. The authors claim that p57 interacts with LIMK1 and provide co-immunoprecipitation data in Figure 2D. There is, however, no visible effect on “co-immunoprecipitation” of LIMK1 in the hepatoma cell lines after knock-down of p57. The authors should evaluate other mechanisms of p57-mediated regulation of coflin expression. Realtime PCR analysis for coflin mRNA should be performed to reveal transcriptional versus post-transcriptional mechanisms.

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.