Reviewer's report

Title: Tumor and matched plasma microRNA profiling for Opisthorchis viverrini-induced cholangiocarcinoma

Version: 3   Date: 26 December 2014

Reviewer: Bin Teh

Reviewer's report:

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- Major Compulsory Revisions
  1. In this work, authors showed the distinct miRNA patterns which were associated with increasing histological differentiation. However, these distinct patterns have been previously found in Ov-related ICC by the same group (Plieskatt JL et al. (2014)). The only difference is the analysis platform (targeted miRNA vs small RNA-seq). To distinguish between the two studies, the authors really need to describe more and focus on the differences between the two findings e.g. what are the novel miRNAs discovered by small RNA-seq etc etc?
  2. As described in the discussion, comparing with the normal liver tissues which are mostly hepatocytes, may be the confounding factor in this study. Then, dysregulated miRNAs that were found are from two distinct cell types. The authors should carefully consider the interpretation. To clearly describe this point, the authors need to emphasize and specify the type of miRNAs that were dysregulated in ICC when compared with both D-NT and N-NT.
- Other Essential Revisions
  There are some factual errors that need to be addressed
  1. The authors should ensure consistency in their use of abbreviation e.g. Ov or OV
  3. Authors should explain the symbol “???” as mentioned in Ref. no. 43
  4. I don’t quite agree to use the term “for the diagnostic” in the title because the supporting data is not enough or did not clearly described.
  5. The authors should try to correlate the dysregulated miRNA(s) with patient survival? This may support the association with histological grading.
- Discretionary Revisions
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests. Decision: major compulsory revisions.