Reviewer’s report

Title: Higher Proliferation of Peritumoral Endothelial Cells to IL-6/sIL-6R than Tumoral Endothelial cells in Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Version: 2

Reviewer: Xin Wang

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

In this manuscript of “Higher proliferation of peritumoral endothelial cells to IL-6/sIL-6R than tumoral endothelial cells in hepatocellular carcinoma”, the authors demonstrated that PECs presented a much higher level of cell proliferation under co-culture with IL-6/sIL-6R by automatically up-regulating their surface gp130 proteins and increased phosphorylation of JAK2 and STAT3. This study suggests that PECs and associated peritumoral angiogenesis microenvironment may be a potential therapeutic target for anti-angiogenic treatment. However, major compulsory revisions are still needed for the current form of this article. The specific comments are listed below:

Q1. On page 9 line 13, how about the protein levels of IL-6, IL-6R and gp130 by western blotting?

Q2. It has been reported that hypoxia could induce the expression of gp130, however, hypoxia had no direct effect on the expression of surface gp130 in PECs in your study, please give an explanation.

Q3. Please check your sentence structure and English grammar.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.