Reviewer's report

Title: Neuropilin-2 Induced by Transforming Growth Factor-beta Augments Migration of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Cells

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Reviewer: Olorunseun Ogunwobi

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Studies of the molecular mechanisms of EMT in HCC are warranted because of the importance of EMT in HCC progression. And the potential role of NRP2 in EMT of HCC cells is novel.

Major compulsory revisions

This manuscript shows that only about half of grade 2, and about half of grade 3 HCCs have NRP2 expression, while a smaller but important percentage of grade 1 HCCs also have NRP2 expression. What about normal liver? Is there NRP2 expression in normal liver? What is the percentage of normal livers that express NRP2. This information is critical to our determining if NRP2 is really important in HCC, and if it may one day be a useful biomarker in HCC.

The in vitro studies do suggest a function for NRP2 in HCC. But the authors cause confusion regarding the exact relation of NRP2 to TGF beta 1 signaling. Is NRP2 dependent on or independent of TGF beta 1 signaling? This needs to be clearly established, and made crystal clear in their discussion.

Confocal immunofluorescence is not quantitative, and therefore, not a suitable method to generate the data in figure 4.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.