Author’s response to reviews

Title: The effects of the location of cancer stem cell marker CD133 on the prognosis of hepatocellular carcinoma patients

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Editor Comments:

1) Please correct a typo on page 9: "CD133 expression was confirmed by CD133 antibody (orb18124) for Western blotting and ." Additional information is needed in this sentence.

Answer: We have corrected a typo as follows (line 22, page 9):

After 48 h, CD133 expression was confirmed by CD133 antibody (orb18124) for Western blotting and β-actin was used as a loading control.

2) Figure 3 is included but it is not cited or presented in the Results section. Please refer to Figure 3 in the text of the manuscript.

Answer: Figure 3 has been included in the Results section as follows (line 3, page 14):
The Kaplan–Meier analysis showed that patients with a high level of cytoplasmic CD133 expression (C+) had shorter OS and RFS periods than patients with a low level of cytoplasmic CD133 (C-) expression (see Figures 3A and 3D). Unexpectedly, we found that HCC patients with high nuclear CD133 expression (N+) had longer OS and RFS periods than patients with low levels of nuclear CD133 expression (N-) (see Figures 3B and 3E).

We further stratified CD133 expression by dividing the study’s subjects into C-/N-, C+/N-, C-/N+, and C+/N+ groups to estimate the OS and RFS of HCC. The results showed that the C+/N- group had the shortest OS and RFS periods (see Figures 3C and 3F). However, no statistically significant correlation was found between the C-/N-, C+/N-, C-/N+, and C+/N+ groups (C: cytoplasmic CD133; N: nuclear CD133) and age, gender, differentiation, tumor stage, HBV, and HCV. These results are shown in Additional file 1: Table S1.