Reviewer’s report

Title: Down-regulation of the tumour suppressor κ-opioid receptor predicts poor prognosis in hepatocellular carcinoma patients

Version: 0 Date: 20 May 2017

Reviewer: Ryoji Yoshida

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written and easy to read manuscript, which aims to evaluate the clinical significance of κ-opioid receptor (KOR) in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

The authors demonstrated that KOR expression was significantly decreased in HCC tissues, and KOR expression status was one of the useful prognostic markers in patient's prognosis. They concluded that KOR might be a potential tumor suppressor in HCC progression and could provide a therapeutic target for HCC treatment.

Comments:

1. First, names of manufacturers with their locations (city and state/country) should be given for the first time only in the manuscript. Please check the Material & Methods section (e.g. p7,line 7 and line 54).

2. Please transfer your tables from the text of manuscript to the back of the figures. The authors should provide tables and figures as the separate data when they submit the manuscript.

3. There is no information about the management policy of the patients. The authors should describe how they follow-up their patients.

4. Since the grade of liver failure is important to decide the treatment of HCC, please show the Child-Pugh Score of study cohort as patient's characteristics.

5. In immunohistochemical studies, the authors should provide the photographs of hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) staining in order to facilitate the understanding pathological conditions.

6. In Table 1, KOR expression status significantly correlated with tumor differentiation grade. Please describe this point in discussion section.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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