Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 03 May 2017

Reviewer: Ya-Wen Wang

Reviewer's report:

Chen et al found that KOR expression was down-regulated in HCC and KOR was identified as an independent risk factor for both overall survival and recurrence-free survival. The study is interesting and of some novelty.

1. The reason to choose KOR for investigation should be clearly described. Why not other opioid receptors? Is the phenomenon of down-regulation specific for KOR? How about other opioid receptors in HCC?

2. "We graded the samples according to the staining intensity and percentage of cells stained with a score of 0-3". The evaluation methods should be described in more detail.

3. The clinicopathological parameters 64 cases of fresh tumour tissues should also be collected and used for analysis.

4. ROC curves should be constructed.

5. The potential function and mechanism of KOR in HCC should be discussed.

6. It is suggested that Fig 1C and 2A should be presented with higher magnification.

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?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

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

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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