Reviewer’s report

Title: Elevated levels of circulating ITIH4 are associated with hepatocellular carcinoma with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: From pig model to human study

Version: 0 Date: 30 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Siu Tim Cheung

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Nakamura et al. reported the study entitled "Elevated levels of circulating ITIH4 are associated with hepatocellular carcinoma with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: From pig model to human study".

Major issues:

1. Elaborate and justify the use of 2 and 1 animals for high fat diet and control diet respectively.

2. The 2D BN/SDS PAGE (Figure 3A) and western blot (Figure 3B; 7A) have quality concerns. Provide alternative images.

3. Figure 7A western blot: Clarify if there is loading control.

4. Serum ITIH4 (Figure 6) levels were measured by western blot / densitometry. Serum levels should be examined by ELISA for quantitative measurement.

5. Clarify if Figure 3B ITIH4 is western blot for the 120kDa or 35kDa protein. Should evaluate both protein size. Figure 7A showed both 120kDa and 35kDa ITIH4 protein.

6. There are reports on the evaluation of serum ITIH4. Authors should discuss the similarity and uniqueness between the current study and the literature:


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

No
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

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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