Reviewer’s report

Title: Integrated analysis of lncRNA-miRNA-mRNA ceRNA network in squamous cell carcinoma of tongue

Version: 2 Date: 22 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Kuo-Wei Chang

Reviewer's report:

This study could be interesting. However, the following weakness needs to be improved.

1. Authors list is not consistent. Please enlist authors' name using the standard format.
2. There is a step between stage III and IV in Table 1.
3. Table 2 should be separated into two tables, each would show mRNA and LncRNA.
4. The preparation of manuscript is not as careful as it should be. Twenty upregulated genes and 20 downregulated genes are supposed to be listed in tables. But, 22 up and 23 done miRNAs are listed in Table 3. Many of them are overlapped.
5. As data are retrieved from TCGA, why the miRNA list is so different from previously reports. Many miRNAs being reported disrupted in HNSCC or OSCC are not in Table 3. Such discrepancy needs vigorous discussion. Validation of mRNA and miRNA needs to be carried out using GEO or Oncomine dataset.
6. The final interactive node converging to KCNQ1 appears speculative. The detail and strength of analysis need clarification.
7. English writing needs improvement.

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.

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal