Reviewer’s report

Title: Distinct molecular etiologies of male and female hepatocellular carcinoma

Version: 0 Date: 08 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Pruthvi Raj Bejugam

Reviewer's report:

To,
Dr. Heini Maaret Natri, Ph.D.

After reviewing your manuscript "Distinct molecular etiologies of male and female hepatocellular carcinoma" my first thoughts are this study is novel and interesting. I am quite satisfied with this quite unconventional study design. The overall methodology of the study is novel and obtained results and relevant conclusions are satisfactory. There are no major revisions are required but we have a few minor queries in our mind.

Minor queries,

1) Your entire study focussed on the analysis of QTLs, Why QTLs? you could have explained your reasons for choosing QTLs in an elaborative manner for common readers or non-genomics readers.

2) In HCC tumors you have found 34 genes which were expressed in a sex-biased way and you have briefly mentioned about few genes viz. DTX1, CD24, and PI3K/AKT. these are all well-characterized and widely studied genes, in your point of view which among those 34 can be a novel target. you could have elaborated on that.

3) In the page, no. 10 (line no. 228) you have mentioned 'due to limited power', what is this power phrase means, is it regarding statistical power or computing power? Please explain.

Please send your response to these minor queries.

Thank you.

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.

Unable to assess
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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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