Author’s response to reviews

Title: LncRNA PLAC 2 downregulates miR-21 in non-small cell lung cancer and predicted survival

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor and reviewers,

Thank you very much for your comments. We have extensively revised the whole manuscript. We have used track changes function for highlight all the changes we have made, and line and page description refer to the original file we send (we add line number and page number by Microsoft word function).

Reviewer reports:

Deepak Aggarwal (Reviewer 1):

1. The last line of the introduction section needs to be corrected.

RE: We changed to “The present study was carried out to investigate the role of PLAC2 in NSCLC.” (Page 3, line 77)

2. The English language need corrections at multiple places and also, needs to be modified as per journal style

RE: Thanks for your suggestion. We have extensively revised the whole manuscript.
Amanjit Bal (Reviewer 2): The study has analyzed the long non-coding RNA PLAC2 and its correlation with miRNA -21 in non-small cell lung carcinoma. They have showed that IncRNA PLAC2 downregulates miRNA-21 and inhibit cancer cell migration and invasion.

The following issues were not addressed to highlight its in-depth clinical importance:

Major Comments:

1. Authors have taken 70 cases of NSCLC and have not sub-categorized these as either squamous or adenocarcinoma. As both these subtypes have different molecular pathogenesis both PLAC2 and miRNA-21 may have different implication in each subtype.

   Re: Sorry for the mistake. In effects all patients are adenocarcinoma. We added this information. (Page3, line 81)

2. Authors have compared their data with overall survival only. It would be interesting to analyze this in relation to smoking and lymph node and distant metastasis.

   Re: For smoking, in effect, only 3 cases were never-smokers. So it is really not practical to perform comparisons. At least in China, lung cancer is rare in never-smokers.

   Among these patients, non-metastasis (NM) was found in 17 cases, lymph node metastasis-only (LNM) was found in 38 cases and distant metastasis (DM) was found in 17 cases. We found that expression levels of PLAC2 were significantly lower in DM group than in LNM and NM groups. In addition, expression levels of PLAC2 were also significantly lower in LNM than in NM groups.

   Please check revised figure. 2.

   We added this information to line (Page 3, 89-91; page 6, line 160-164; page 11, line 317-323).

Minor Comment

3. Abstract: Line 10: From December 2010 to December……….. Is missing

   Re: We added “2014’. (Page 2, Line 36)
4. Introduction: Line 23: The present study was carried out to investigate the role of PLAC2 in glioma (not gliomas but NSCLC).


5. Methods: Line 33: From December 2010 to December………. Is missing


6. Need to check grammar

RE: We have revised the whole manuscript with a native English speaker.

Best wishes!

Hongyu Jing