Author’s response to reviews

Title: Tissue-Infiltrating Lymphocytes Signature Predicts Survival in Patients with Early/Intermediate Stage Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Authors:

yinghong shi (shi.yinghong@zs-hospital.sh.cn)
Meng-Xin Tian MD (tianmengxingyu@163.com)
Wei-Ren Liu MD (liu.weiren@zs-hospital.sh.cn)
Han Wang (15211210028@fudan.edu.cn)
Yu-Fu Zhou MD (maikestar99@163.com)
Lei Jin (JLfudan2013@163.com)
Xi-Fei Jiang (14211210029@fudan.edu.cn)
Chen-Yang Tao (363392117@qq.com)
Zheng Tang (897594561@qq.com)
Pei-Yun Zhou (15111210068@fudan.edu.cn)
Yuan Fang (17317822004@163.com)
Wei-Feng Qu (527544659@qq.com)
Zhen-Bin Ding MD (ding.zhenbin@zs-hospital.sh.cn)
Yuan-Fei Peng MD (peng.yuanfei@zs-hospital.sh.cn)
Zhi Dai (dai.zhi@zs-hospital.sh.cn)
Shuang-Jian Qiu MD (qiu.shuangjian@zs-hospital.sh.cn)
Jian Zhou (zhou.jian@zs-hospital.sh.cn)
Wan Yee Lau (josephlau@cuhk.edu.hk)
Jia Fan (fan.jia@zs-hospital.sh.cn)

Version: 3 Date: 13 Apr 2019
**Author’s response to reviews:**

Reviewer #1: The authors have done a big effort to answer properly the concerns raised by the reviewer. The manuscript has improved. Even though there are some limitations, it has been properly discussed. I have some minor comments.

Response: We appreciated Prof. Naoto Fujiwara for professional and constructive comments. We have corrected the manuscript according to the reviewer’s comments.

(1) There are still some typos in the manuscript (e.g. line 9 in Background, kupffer should be Kupffer). Please correct them.

Response: We have corrected the typos in the manuscript as follows:

“the existence of various immune components have been identified in the liver, including Kupffer cells [5], dendritic cells (DCs) [6], natural killer (NK) cells, naïve and memory lymphocytes”

(2) The excellent performance in the training cohort should not be highlighted because it is not special (page 8, line 14).

Response: We thank Prof. Naoto Fujiwara for the suggestion. According to the suggestion, we have updated the sentences as follows:

“The calibration plots achieved acceptable agreement in the validation cohort between the ICPI prediction and the actual observation for 1-, 3-, and 5-year OS (Additional file 3: Fig. S6B).”

Reviewer #2: The authors have addressed the concerns raised by the reviewers.

Response: Special thanks to Prof. Amaia Lujambio for the constructive comments. The quality of our article has been greatly improved.

Reviewer #3: The authors did good point-by-point responses to the comments. Thank you for this interesting and useful study.

Response: We appreciated Prof. Wang for your insightful suggestion. We will focus on the oncoimmunology and do more research in this field.