Author’s response to reviews

Title: A microRNA biomarker of hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence following liver transplantation accounting for within-patient heterogeneity

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Author’s response to reviews:

Editorial requests:

1. Please can you add an Ethics approval statement to your manuscript

We have added the following to the manuscript:

“This study was performed with approval of the University of Rochester Research Subjects Review Board (RSRB00029467).”

2. Please can you add a Consent to participate statement to your manuscript
We have added the following sentence to the manuscript:

“Liver explant pathology specimens (paraffin embedded blocks) from patients undergoing liver transplant for HCC were de-identified prior to processing and analysis, so individuals were exempt from consent.”

3. In Authors' contributions, please can you add the statement 'all authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript and ensure that this is the case.

We have added this sentence and ensured that this is the case.

4. Please can you describe the contents of your additional files in the main manuscript text after References. Please note these descriptions should be detailed enough to allow readers to determine exactly what data/information they can find in these files.

We have added the following:

Description of additional data files

The Supplementary Materials contain additional figures (S1-S22) and tables (S1-S9) referenced in the manuscript. All supplementary tables and figures are included in a single file: SupplementaryMaterials.docx.

5. Please can you add an Availability of data and materials section to your manuscript using the guidelines below:

We have added the following:

Availability of data and materials

Raw data are available via the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) with accession number GSE67140: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE67140. Processed and annotated data, as well as R scripts for the analyses are freely available on GitHub: https://github.com/mccallm/HCCmicroRNA.
6. Please can you add a Declarations section to your manuscript using the guidelines below:

We have added a Declarations section with the required fields as follows:

Declarations

List of abbreviations

HCC: hepatocellular carcinoma

t-SNE: t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding

PCA: Principal Components Analysis

GEO: Gene Expression Omnibus

Ethics approval and consent to participate

This study was performed with approval of the University of Rochester Research Subjects Review Board (RSRB00029467). Liver explant pathology specimens (paraffin embedded blocks) from patients undergoing liver transplant for HCC were de-identified prior to processing and analysis, so individuals were exempt from consent.

Consent to publish

Not applicable.

Availability of data and materials

Raw data are available via the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) with accession number GSE67140: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE67140. Processed and annotated data, as well as R scripts for the analyses are freely available on GitHub: https://github.com/mccallm/HCCmicroRNA.

Competing interests

They authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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National Institutes of Health. This work was also supported by the Roche Organ Transplant Research Fund (# 871634732) and the Wilmot Cancer Center.

Authors’ contributions

QYX carried out the analyses and drafted the manuscript. AA helped conceive the analyses and was involved in the coordination and implementation of the study. CLW performed pathological analyses. CTB conceived of the study, collected the samples, and coordinated and implemented the study. MNM conceived the analyses, processed the data, was involved in the coordination and implementation of the study, and helped draft the manuscript. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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