

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



January 18, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 8029-review.doc).

Title: Decreased expression of miR-133a is associated with poor prognosis in patients with colorectal cancer

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The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 The content has been revised according to the suggestions of the reviewers.

Reviewer #1:

Comments:

This is a nice study about the clinical expression pattern of mir133a in CRC. The methodology used in this investigation is correct and suitable. Esp. the statistical analysis is sufficient. However, the investigation remain merely descriptive and therefore, the overall novelty is limited. The authors could try to implement also potential targets of mir133a into the investigation of expression to further underline their assumptions.

Answer: Thank you for this insightful suggestion, and we completely agree with this comment. We would like to carry out a separate but more extensive experiment on this topic. Moreover, research on functional significance of miR-133a by potential targets in CRC will be also lifted on our agenda.

Reviewer #2:

Comments:

The authors presented a study about clinical implication of miR-133a expression in colorectal cancer, showing association between low expression of miR-133 and poorer OS of CRC patients. If possible, the data about correlation between the target gene expression of miR-133a and miR-133a level or clinical outcome could improve the result of this study. Some minor corrections.

(1) 15th line of 2nd paragraph in 'introduction', "..by targeting LM(?) and SH3.."

Answer: Thank you for your kind suggestions. We have corrected these abbreviations.

(2) 10th line of 2nd paragraph in 'Discussion', "..target LASP1(full name) and.."

Answer: We deleted this sentence because it has been cited in the "Introduction".

(3) 10th line of 3rd paragraph in 'Discussion', "..miR-133 was previous controversial reported to be served..(incomplete sentence)'.

Answer: Thanks for correction. We have modified this sentence.

(4) In table 1, Age(y-remove), Median(? years old)

Answer: We have modified them as shown in table 1.

(5) In table 2, adding concrete variables could be helpful to improve understanding. For example, Gender(male vs.

female), Local invasion(T3-4 vs. T1-2),....., and miR-133a expression(high vs. low) if you did not utilize continuous value of miR-133a level in this analysis.

Answer: As suggested, we have added concrete variables in Table 2.

(6) In table 2, an error in "*" of multivariate analysis.

Answer: We have corrected this error in Table 2.

Reviewer #3:

Comments:

There are several places where the English is misleading or wrong. I have one question which also needs to be answered: why was six patients with distant metastasis excluded for the reason of non-statistical significance?

Answer: We appreciate the reviewer's comments. In this study, there are only six CRC tissues with liver metastasis were collected including two rectal cancer and four colon cancer. And all of the six patients died during the follow-up period. The limited cases maybe cause statistical bias, so these patients were not finally enrolled in the present study.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

In summary, we would like to thank the reviewers and the editor for their insightful and constructive review of our research. By addressing each of their concerns, we have considerably strengthened our study and its presentation. Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely,



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