

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 34162

**Title:** DCLK1 as an independent prognostic factor in patients with resected pancreatic carcinoma

**Reviewer's code:** 00069601

**Reviewer's country:** South Korea

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-04-08

**Date reviewed:** 2017-04-11

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well written manuscript with the purpose to investigate the possibility of DCLK1 expression as a prognostic factor in pancreatic adenocarcinoma. The results showed DCLK1 expression is an independent prognostic factor on overall survival. The methods and results are relatively clear and obvious. However, there are some points that should be reinforced before to consider publication.

- Several disease (tumor) & patient factors are analyzed. However, the treatment factor is lacking for the survival analysis. How many patients have received adjuvant chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy? What was the regimen? Does the adjuvant therapy affects the survival?
- I suggest to analyze the failure patterns (or progression-free survival) and correlate it with DCLK1 expression if data are available. I wonder whether the DCLK1 expression increase the possibility of distant metastasis or local recurrence or both, or only the death?
- Some minor points (1) Explanations of some abbreviations are missing. (ex) EpCAM, (2) The different expression of staging methods (AJCC? UICC? ) causes confusion. (3)



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The term 'R factor' is not familiar to me. Please use another term, such as Resection margin status or Residual tumor classification (4) Conclusion: properities properties  
4. A little English language editing seems to be required.



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## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 34162

**Title:** DCLK1 as an independent prognostic factor in patients with resected pancreatic carcinoma

**Reviewer's code:** 03257825

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-04-08

**Date reviewed:** 2017-04-21

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The retrospective study submitted by Nishio K et al supports a role of DCLK1 as an independent prognostic factor in patients with resected pancreatic carcinoma. In addition, it helps understand the aggressiveness of pancreatic cancers. This study is informative and important, and should be interesting to the clinicians and researchers. However, it could be more interesting if the recent finding of pancreatic cancer initiation by DCLK1 positive pancreatic progenitor cells (Cell Stem Cell. 2016 Apr 7;18(4):441-55.) is included in the discussion.