

October 23, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 14160-review.doc).

Title: Decreased STAT4 indicated Poor Prognosis and enhanced cell proliferation in Hepatocellular Carcinoma

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) Multivariate cox proportional hazard model has been added as table 3. And 19 of 90 HCC patients are the patients who have tumor metastasis before they have operation.

(2) The groups of STAT4 divided in IHC is according to the mean value of the positive expression cell percentage follow standards international practices because we use the tissue microarray.

(3) "High STAT4 Expression is a Better Prognostic Indicator in Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma After Hepatectomy" is an article just talk about the tissue level of STAT4, not involve the cell level and the possible mechanism, so we have the difference.

(4) The result of Fig 4a is just meet our results. LO2 is a normal liver cell line, and the others is HCC cell lines. STAT4 is higher in LO2 than others, so the data supports our results.

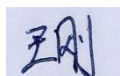
(5) We use Cox regression analysis to analysis the longitudinal survival between the dead and alive in Fig 3B. The time we collect is the overall survival and the alive patients we follow-up visit are not relapse that now.

(6) According to our statistics, STAT4 and HBV have statistical significance, and in some articles shows that (PMID::25178516, 25041342). We just speculate the possible relationship between HBV and STAT4 because our library did not reach the level of four which can do the virus experiments, so we just make conjectures of it. we delete the sentence already. Sorry

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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