



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

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Title: Survivin-positive circulating tumor cells as a marker of the metastasis of hepatocellular carcinoma

Reviewer's code: 02441753

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Research Fellow

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: China

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Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Authors conducted an observational study using CTC as a marker of the metastasis of HCC. They included 179 patients and evaluated survivin positive-CTC and CTC with either epithelial or mesenchymal markers expression. They found that 94.4% of HCC patients were positive for survivin positive CTC and number of CTCs well related to tumor stage and degree of differentiation. I found scientific significance in this study: however, I have several comments. 1. Biophysiological role of survivin in cancer is still not elucidated. Previous studies reported conflicting results about the role of surviving especially with regard of relation for EMT. Thus, I strongly recommend authors to investigate the relation between survivin expression in HCC and clinical data, especially for tumor stage. Additionally, correlation analysis between tissue and CTC expression of survivin can be helpful to understand the origin of CTCs. 2. Regarding Figure 2, comparisons should be made as Lenti. vs. Lenti-survivin, siRNA vs. siRNA-survivin, not for NC vs. Lent-survivin and so on. 3. Overall, text in figures is too thin and small. Please modify them.