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ESPS Peer-review Report
Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS Manuscript NO: 6521
Title: Pancreatic cancer stoma: understanding biology leads to therapy
Reviewer code: 00040957
Science editor: Ma, Ya-Juan
Date sent for review: 2013-10-23 16:29
Date reviewed: 2013-10-31 09:25

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A (Excellent)	[Y] Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[Y] Grade B (Very good)	[ ] Grade B: minor language polishing	[ ] Existed	[ ] High priority for publication
[ ] Grade C (Good)	[ ] Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	[ ] No records	
[ ] Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	[ ]Rejection
[ ] Grade E (Poor)	[ ] Grade D: rejected	[ ] Existed	[Y] Minor revision
		[ ] No records	[ ] Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDA) is difficult to detect a real tumor volume, because the density around PDA is elevated by a computed tomography examination. This attempt may be contribute to optimize patient care. I think there are several weak points in this manuscript and please comments for my queries. 1. The authors should correct miss spell in your title; stoma to stroma. 2. Desmoplastic reaction is popular in PDA, suggesting the cancer-stromal interaction. Cancer-stromal intraction is interesting in the biology of PDA, however, it is important to demonstrate the relationship between the survival and cancer-stromal interaction. I recommend adding the consensus of relationship between the survival and cancer-stromal interaction in the authors' Introduction section. 3. Epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT) is sometimes demonstrated in PDA tissue. Elevated levels of TGFβ drive EMT process, believed to be the initial step of metastasis, cell proliferation, immunosuppression and activation of PSCs. I recommend describing the summary for molecular research concerned with EMT. I recommend describing whether Th17 cells contribute desmoplastic reaction or not.

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ESPS Peer-review Report
Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
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Title: Pancreatic cancer stoma: understanding biology leads to therapy
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Science editor: Ma, Ya-Juan
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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A (Excellent)	[ ] Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[ ] Grade B (Very good)	[Y] Grade B: minor language polishing	[ ] Existed	[ ] High priority for publication
[Y] Grade C (Good)	[ ] Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	[ ] No records	
[ ] Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	[ ]Rejection
[ ] Grade E (Poor)	[ ] Grade D: rejected	[ ] Existed	[Y] Minor revision
		[ ] No records	[ ] Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Late diagnosis and ineffective current therapies are two major causes of poor prognosis in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDA). This manuscript is focused on the tumor stroma components that contribute to tumor initiation, progression and intrinsic/acquired chemoresistance, and alongside suggest novel therapeutic targets. In our opinion, a few points seem to be missing or/and may be improved. 1. The title (misspelled "stoma") looks too ambitious at the present stage, as it is formulated: "understanding biology leads to therapy". Perhaps to replace "therapy" by "novel therapeutic targets" or "new therapeutic strategies"? 2. Targeting the tumor stroma (rather than tumor cells) is not that groundbreaking concept anymore. We may not forget that anti-angiogenic drugs have been already studied in PDA, and this therapy appeared to be not effective. We suggest to mention about this strategy, and to briefly discuss the possible mechanisms of resistance. 3. Since a decade, constitutive NF-kB activation (both the canonical and alternative pathways) is considered to be a major link between chronic inflammation and pancreatic carcinogenesis, and therefore remains to be a promising target. The group of Peter Storz demonstrated that macrophage-secreted cytokines drive pancreatic acinar-to-ductal metaplasia through NF-kB and MMPs. This signaling pathway deserves to be overviewed. 4. In our view, this manuscript would benefit from an illustration that summarizes the tumor-stroma interaction in terms of critical signaling pathways and potential therapeutic targets. Next to other reviews on PDA biology with excellent illustrations , the present manuscript is rather descriptive and hence difficult to follow.