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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Evaluation of *AK023391* lncRNA and *FOXO3a* Genes' Expression in Tissues from Iranian Gastric Cancer Patients Compared with Healthy Tissues and Their Relationship with Clinicopathological Features

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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Contents

1 **Original submission** Associate Editor, Editor-in-Chief 2
2 **Revision 1** Referee 1, Associate Editor, Editor-in-Chief 3
Authors' reply to reviewers 4
Reviewer and editor comments 5

1 Original submission

2 comments · 9 Aug 2021 – 9 Aug 2021

Associate Editor

MINOR REVISION 9 Aug 2021

Dear Dr. Leila Pishkar,

Reviewers have now commented on your paper again. You will see that they are advising that you revise your manuscript. If you are prepared to undertake the work required, I would be pleased to reconsider my decision.

For your guidance, reviewers' comments are appended below.

If you decide to revise the work, please submit a list of changes or a rebuttal to each point raised when you submit the revised manuscript.

Yours sincerely

Bita Moudi, PhD
Associate Editor
Gene, Cell and Tissue

Reviewers' comments:
Reviewer 1.
Dear editor
The manuscript is suitable for publication. I propose that the authors explain all parts of the manuscript; the manuscript is like a short communication.
Decision: minor revision
Reviewer 2.
Please briefly explain the studied genes and their loci in the introduction part.
Please explain the expression levels of the studied genes (including LNCs) in different tissues and their association with cancer in the introduction part and then discuss them in the discussion.
The results mentioned in the abstract do not correspond to the results presented in the text of the article. Please correct the data in the abstract. “There was no significant association between the expression level of AK023391 in GC tissues comparing normal tissues (Mean = 2.683, p= 0.0371).”
In the objectives part, the authors have mentioned “the RNA levels of FOXO3a and NKILA in gastric tumor tissues”, but the data on NKILA expression are not presented in the results.
The Real-Time PCR conditions should be explained in the methods part.
In 4.2 part: It is better to mention the expression level in cancerous tissue; exactly how much has it changed? (For example, two times)
4.3-part, line 99: Please replace “however” with “moreover”.
4.3-part, line 105: Please revise the sentence (grammatically) “The results showed that no significant associations were identified between the transcription level of FOXO3a”.
Decision: Minor revision

Editor-in-Chief

MINOR REVISION 9 Aug 2021

Based on the reviewer's comments and my reading of the manuscript, this manuscript needs minor revision. Please revise it and reply to the comments.

2

Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Dear editor,

Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript (ID: 117415). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. The revised portions are marked in green in the paper. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer's comments are as flowing:

Response to reviewer1:

Thank you very much for your valuable comments. I am sure your suggestions help me to improve the manuscript quality.

- In the introduction, the studied genes and their position were briefly described.
- The expression of the studied genes (including LNC) in different tissues and their relationship with cancer was explained in the introduction.
- The results were revised in the abstract.
- qPCR conditions added.
- The level of expression was accurately expressed.
- "however" was replaced by "moreover".
- 4.3-part, line 105: sentence revised.

Response to reviewer2:

Thank you very much for your valuable comments. I am sure your suggestions help me to improve the manuscript quality.

We tried our best to improve the manuscript and made some changes in the manuscript. These changes will not influence the content and framework of the paper.

We appreciate for Editors and Reviewers' warm work earnestly, and hope that the correction will meet with approval.

Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.

Yours sincerely

2 Revision 1

3 comments · 15 Sep 2021 – 19 Sep 2021

Referee 1 Reviewer

ACCEPT 15 Sep 2021

The manuscript is well revised according to the comments. Thanks

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 18 Sep 2021

Dear Dr. Leila Pishkar,

It is our pleasure to inform you that the mentioned article has been accepted for publication in the journal.
Below you can find final comments by our peer reviewers.
Final Reviewers' Comments:
Reviewer 1:
Dear editor
The authors have addressed all comments as requested. The manuscript is now suitable for publication.
Decision: Accept
Reviewer 2:
The manuscript has been revised well according to the comments. Thanks.

Yours sincerely

Bita Moudi, PhD
Associate Editor
Gene, Cell and Tissue

Editor-in-Chief

ACCEPT 19 Sep 2021

Based on the reviewers' and AE's comments, revisions were done well. Thus, this manuscript can be accepted for publication in GCT.