

Peer Review File

Article information: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/atm-20-3840>.

Reviewer A

Comment 1: In general, it is mandatory to improve the writing of the manuscript. There are too many English writing mistakes. It really does not help for understanding of the manuscript.

Reply 1: The manuscript has been edited and polished by the ATM editing service. The English writing mistakes and grammar mistakes in the whole manuscript have been corrected by native speakers.

Changes in the text: we have modified the language. (All the altered passages have been highlighted in gray).

Comment 2: I just wonder why authors have not analyzed some adjacent with no lesion or prelesions tissue in addition to normal tissues as controls for their study. Are the adjacent « normal » tissues, too hard to be characterized clinically or phenotypically?

Reply 2:

Thank you for your suggestion. It is a good idea that we have also considered before. However, the area of oral lesions of patients is generally large so that not enough normal tissues can be excised. Furthermore, it would have caused more pain to the patients, and wouldn't have passed the ethic review if normal tissues had been excised.

Changes in the text: we have explained the query of the reviewer proposed.

Reviewer B

Comment 1: Enzyme tolerance test is not enough to prove that five selected circRNAs are circRNA, so why only chose one of them to do the sanger sequencing.

Reply 1:

Thank you for reviewing my manuscript.

I'm sorry. The part you mentioned was not elaborated clearly which has now been modified.

Sanger sequencing was performed on all three circRNAs, circHLA-C, circPLIN4 and circRNF13, mentioned in the paper. But only one circRNA, circHLA-C, was found to

have corresponding back-spliced junction site and was a truly circRNA.

Changes in the text: we have modified our text as advised. (see page 9, line 212-216)

Comment 2: The article needs to be examined carefully before submission, there are marks of Chinese characters in the text.

Reply 2: The manuscript has been edited and polished by the ATM editing service. The English writing mistakes and grammar mistakes in the whole manuscript have been corrected by native speakers.

Changes in the text: we have modified the language. (All the altered passages have been highlighted in gray).

Comment 3: The language needs to be further polished.

Reply 3: The manuscript has been edited and polished by the ATM editing service. The English writing mistakes and grammar mistakes in the whole manuscript have been corrected by native speakers.

Changes in the text: we have modified the language. (All the altered passages have been highlighted in gray).