

## Peer Review File

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### Reviewer A

This is a very interesting paper that highlights the potential for this protein to be a target in the prevention of HCC.

**Comment 1: This paper would be informative to a wider audience if the authors took the time to be more descriptive in explaining what abbreviations mean. There is a lot of jargon in this paper. It feels like the results in 1A are overstated relative to the other cancers in the panel. HCC is not the only cancer with significance or that trends the way it does.**

**Reply 1:** I have added the full name of the abbreviation. Yes, HCC is not the only tumor with significance or that trends the way it does. Why do we show that in Figure 1? Firstly, by reading a wealth of literature, we found that USP7 is highly expressed in various tumor tissues, and Figure 1 shows the expression of USP7 in pan-cancer, which proves that USP7 is indeed highly expressed in most of the tumours, and the difference is statistically significant. Secondly, the expression of USP7 in cancerous and paracancerous tissues of HCC patients was significantly different, with a P value of <0.01.

**Changes in the text:** we have modified our text as advised (see Page 3, line 82-85; Page 4, line 119,120; Page 9, line 186)

**Comment 2: If the authors will explain why the yellow box is on the figure it will help highlight for a novel audience the point they are making. What is the yellow box indicating, it should be stated clearly in the legend? This is a panel where citing the webpage that defines abbreviations would be helpful to an expanded audience.**

**Reply 2:** I have modified it and quoted the page defining the abbreviation.

**Changes in the text:** we have modified our text as advised (see Page 4, line 111-113)

**Comment 3: Different is repeatedly misspelled in figure 2's legend.**

**Reply 3:** Sorry, it was an oversight on my part, I have amended.

**Changes in the text:** we have modified our text as advised (see Page 7, line 132,133)

**Comment 4: Define the subtypes in panel 2D somewhere.**

**Reply 4:** I have revised this section.

**Changes in the text:** we have modified our text as advised (see Page 7, line 133-135)

**Comment 5: The images in the 2E and 2F are ambiguously labelled and not well described. It needs to be made more clear what features of the image prove the authors point.**

**Reply 5:** I have replaced this part of the image.

**Changes in the text:** we have modified our text as advised (see Page 6, line 129)