Potential relative quantities of miR-122 and miR-150 to differentiate hepatocellular carcinoma from liver cirrhosis

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Abstract	Cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) are related to chronic liver diseases. Diagnostic algorithms are needed to discriminate HCC from cirrhosis for better patient management. This study aimed to determine the potential of miR-122 and miR-150 to differentiate HCC from liver cirrhosis. This study used a cross-sectional method involving 66 patients with liver cirrhosis, 27 subjects with HCC, and 29 healthy controls. Examination of miR-122 and miR-150 levels from blood plasma used real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction and their relative expressions were calculated. Clinical and laboratory data were collected and graphed for the Area Under the Curve (AUC) and also for comparison using unpaired T-tests, Kruskal-Wallis, Mann-Whitney, and Chi-square tests with significance set as $p < 0.05$. The relative expressions of miR-122 and miR-150 could differentiate HCC from cirrhosis, with cut-off 9.11, AUC 53.84%, $p = 0.2120$, and cut-off 1.47, AUC 67.65%, $p = 0.0001$, respectively. Meanwhile, the combined relative expressions of miR-122 and miR-150 can distinguish HCC from cirrhosis, with AUC 71.94%, $p = 0.0006$. The combination of miR-122 and miR-150 has the potential as a biomarker to differentiate HCC from liver cirrhosis.
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