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## ENZYMOMOLOGY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

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**Investigating miRNA-661 and ATG4b mRNA expression as potential biomarkers for hepatocellular carcinoma****Osama Saber<sup>1</sup>, Mahmoud A Ali<sup>1</sup>, Marwa Matboli<sup>2</sup>, Nashwa El-Khazragy<sup>2</sup>, Nourhan Hossam<sup>2</sup>, Ahmed Hamdy<sup>1</sup>, Sarah El-Nakeep<sup>2</sup>, Ayman El-Sayed Shafei<sup>1</sup> and Randa Mostafa<sup>1</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Armed Forces College of Medicine, Egypt<sup>2</sup>Ain Shams University, Egypt

**Aim:** In this study, we aimed to examine the statistical association of serum expression of miR-661 and ATG-4b mRNA with HCC based on *in silico* data analysis followed by clinical validation.

**Patients & Methods:** Bioinformatics prediction was first applied to retrieve the potential miR serving as an epigenetic regulator of ATG-4b mRNA. Real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction( RT-qPCR) were used to examine the expression of miR-661 and candidate target gene ATG-4b mRNA in 105 hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients, 50 chronic hepatitis C infected ( CHC) patients and 45 healthy controls. The prognostic efficacy of the chosen genes was also explored.

**Results:** The expression of miR-661 and ATG-4B mRNA was positive in 97.14% and 77.14%, respectively. HCC patients with strong discriminating power between HCC and control showed AUC=0.9 and 0.8, respectively. The median follow up period was 28 months. The survival analysis showed that ATG-4b mRNA was not dependent on the prognostic factors. We also found that miR-661 was positively correlated with ATG-4b mRNA in patients 'sera samples.

**Conclusion:** This is the first report about the considerable clinical use of miR-661 and ATG-4b mRNA in early detection and follow-up of HCC patients.

**Biography**

Osama Saber is a second year Medical Cadet in Armed Forces College of Medicine (AFCM). He is a member of International Genetic Engineering Machine Foundation. He has published many papers in various reputed journals.

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