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Manuscript Title:

MiR-372-3p functions as a tumor suppressor in colon cancer by targeting MAP3K2

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Abstract:

MicroRNAs (miRNAs) as small non-coding RNA transcripts bind their complementary sequences in the 3'-untranslated region (3'-UTR) of target messenger RNAs (mRNAs) to regulate their expression. It is known that miR-372 belongs to the miR-371-373 gene cluster and has been found to be abnormally expressed in a variety of cancers, but its precise mechanism in cancer remains to be discovered. In this study, miR-372-3p expression was assessed in 153 frozen tissue samples, including primary diagnosed colon cancer and matched normal and adjacent tissues, using real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR). An analysis of qPCR data revealed a significant reduction in miR-372-3p expression (by >2-fold) in colon cancer tissues in 51.5% (34/66) of patients, while, in adjacent tissues, a >2-fold reduction in miR-372-3p expression had already appeared in 11/21 of the patients. Consistent with this, mimicking the increased miR-372-3p levels in SW480 colon cancer cells significantly suppressed cell growth and proliferation. Although no direct correlation was found between the low level of miR-372-3p and certain...

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