

Review Article

MicroRNAbased Novel Strategies for Cancer Treatment

Hossein Javdani and Negin Parsamanesh

Molecular Medicine Department, Birjand Faculty of Medicine, Birjand University of Medical Sciences, Birjand, Iran

Abstract

MicroRNAs (*mir*NAs) have garnered tremendous interest in cancer biology research in the recent decade. *mir*NAs are a group of short non-coding RNAs, 20–24 nucleotides in length, that are found in animals and plants. They can reduce the expression of genes involved in numerous vital cell processes. Recent evidences indicate a key role played by *mir*NAs in the initiation and development of human carcinogenesis. These function including: the regulation of oncogenes, tumor suppressor genes, and several tumor-associated genes to that of processes such as cell proliferation, apoptosis, and angiogenesis. Clinical trials aimed at improving *mir*NA profiling for clinical diagnosis and prognosis of different disorders are now underway. In this review, we have summarized the physiological role of *mir*NAs and their diagnostic and therapeutic potential in clinical assessment.

Corresponding Author:
Negin Parsamanesh;
email:
neginparsa.684@gmail.com

Received 9 December 2017
Revised 3 January 2018
Accepted 18 January 2018
Published December 2018

Production and Hosting by
Knowledge E

© Hossein Javdani and Negin Parsamanesh. This article is distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use and redistribution provided that the original author and source are credited.

Editor-in-Chief:
Dr. Alireza Rafiei

Keywords: biogenesis, cancer, microRNAs, regulation, therapeutic

1. Introduction

MicroRNAs (*mir*NAs) are a subset of small (18 to 24 nucleotides) non-coding RNA molecules, which were discovered in 1993 in the nematode *C. elegans* in relation with the gene *lin-14* (1-3). MicroRNAs play vital roles in several biological pathways in multicellular organisms, including mammals (4). They are involved in different cellular processes like proliferation, differentiation, metabolism, cell cycle, and apoptosis of normal cells, as well as in the pathogenesis, invasion, and tumorigenesis of various malignancies (5-7). About 3,000 potential human microRNAs have been identified (8). They directly bind with the 3'UTR region of target messenger RNAs (mRNAs) and downregulate gene translation. Bioinformatic analyses have revealed that *mir*NAs can regulate approximately 60% protein-encoding genes in the human genome (9). Recent evidences highlight the importance of noncoding RNA as global regulators in the development and progression of cancer through their specific mRNA interactions. In addition, *mir*NAs can target multiple effectors of cell proliferation, differentiation, and survival pathways (10). Hence, it is important to find the precise function of *mir*NAs in carcinogenesis and investigate the basis of their actions. Therapeutic targeting of *mir*NAs in cancer could open a new avenue for the use of *mir*NAs in cancer therapy (11). In current review, we summarize the identification and characterization of *mir*NAs and

OPEN ACCESS

also discuss their roles in human cancers and tumorigenesis. The various types of RNA molecules are shown in Figure 1.

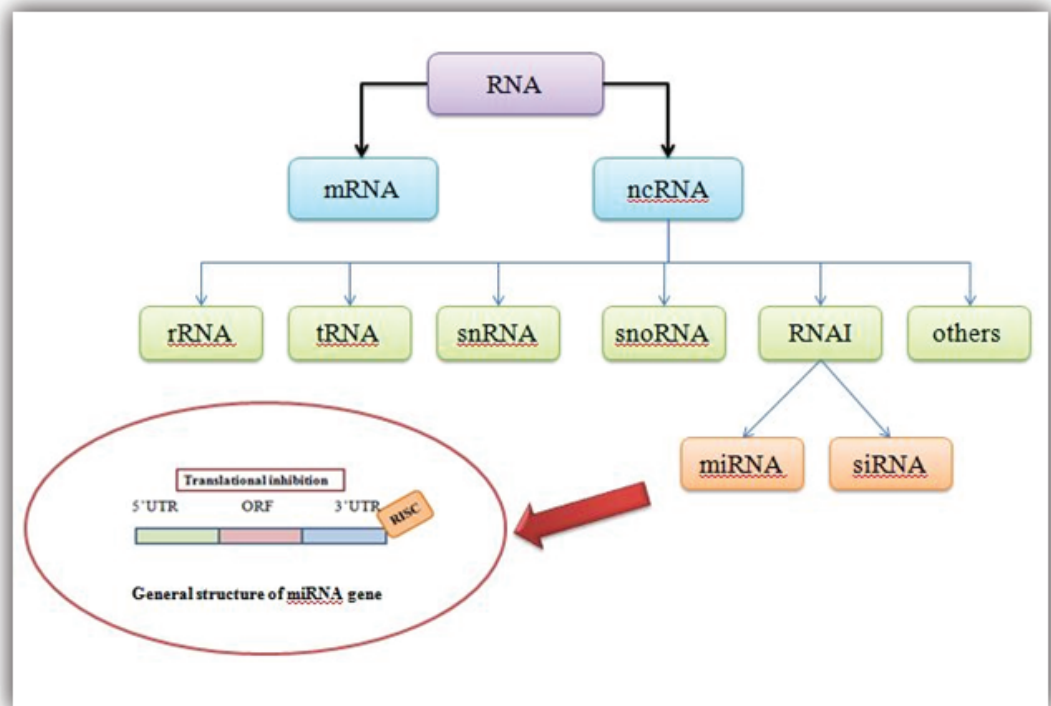


Figure 1: Type of RNA molecules. RNA have two subclass including; mRNA and ncRNA.

2. MicroRNA Biogenesis and Its Regulation

The biogenesis of *mir*NAs involves an initial transcription of a large primary transcript (pri-*mir*NA) by RNA pol II which in the 5' to 3' direction' (12, 13). In the nucleus, the pri-*mir*NA is capped, polyadenylated, and then cleaved by the RNA-binding protein DGCR8/Pasha and RNase type III (Drosha) into an ~60–75 nucleotides long structure identified as a precursor *mir*NA (pre-*mir*NA) (14, 15). The Ran/GTP/Exportin-5 complex is known to act as a transporter of pre-*mir*NAs. Subsequently, Dicer (RNase III enzyme) cleaves the double stranded mature RNA duplex into an ~ 19– 24 nucleotides long structure (16), which is incorporated into the RNA-induced silencing complexes (RISCs) and guides the translation of mature *mir*NA (according to Figure 2) (17). The 'seed' sequence in the mature *mir*NA recognizes and binds to its complementary 3' untranslated region (UTR) on the target mRNA, forming RISC which subsequently cleaves the target mRNA. Some evidences also suggest that the 5' end of the mature *mir*NA or open reading frame of the aim mRNA are involved in the recognition process across the genome (Figure 1) (18-20). Reports estimate that about 30% of the human genome is controlled by *mir*NAs and this makes *mir*NAs one of the biggest groups of target specific regulatory molecules in the body (21).

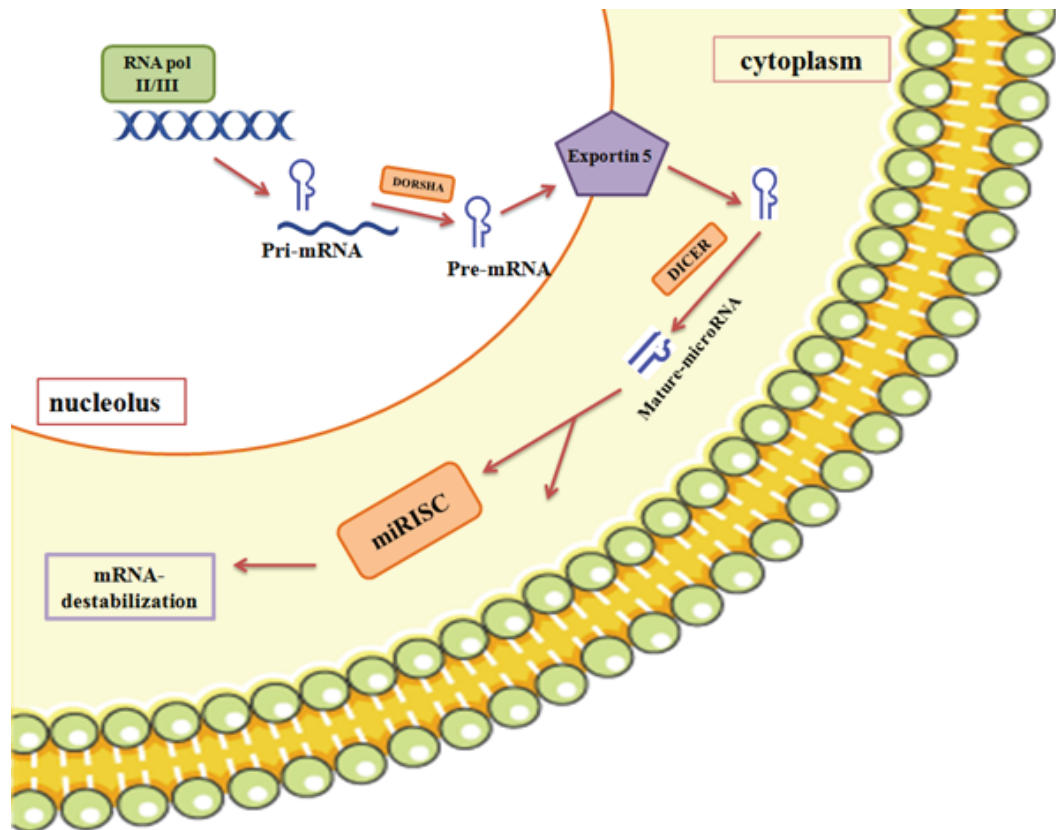


Figure 2: MicroRNA biogenesis and regulation. The pri-mirNA is capped, polyadenylated, and then cleaved in the nucleus and identified as a precursor mirNA (pre-mirNA). Then, Dicer (RNase III enzyme) cleaves the double stranded mature RNA duplex by RISCs and guides the translation of mature mirNA.

3. A Potential Role for MicroRNA Expression in Cancer

Most types of cancers have characteristics including the lack of cellular identity, enhancement of proliferation ability, and loss of the cell death regulatory system (22-24). Studies carried out in different organisms have indicated that mirNAs are involved in several of these cellular processes, suggesting that they play a critical role in carcinogenesis. Several reports have firmly established that mirNAs are expressed in cancer tissues and normal. Further, that they are located in tumor-associated genomic sites or in fragile regions (22). Amplification, deletion, and translocation of mirNA genes in tumor cells may lead to mirNA copy number variation (25). Research has demonstrated an absence of the mir-16 and mir-15a genes in the 13q14 chromosomal region of B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia (B-CLL) patients (26). In lung cancer, the genes mir-143 and mir-145 in the 5q33 region are mostly omitted leading to reduced mirNA expression (27). However, mir-17-92 gene amplification was found in lung tumor and B-cell lymphomas (BCL). In addition, over expression of this gene cluster was also observed in T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL) (28). Aberrant expression of several transcription factors (TFs) can be the key cause of mirNA dysregulation in tumor cells such as p53 and c-Myc (29). O'Donnell and colleagues in 2008 showed that c-Myc is overexpressed in several neoplasms to control cell apoptosis and proliferation, elevate expression of oncogenic mir-17-92, and induce binding of E-box elements.

Furthermore, c-Myc up regulated the activity of the TF regulated mirNAs involved in cancer suppression including let-7, mir-15a, mir-26 and mir-30 (30). Recent evidences have shown that mirNAs combined with chemotherapeutic agents can be used a new strategy for next-generation malignancy treatment (31-33).

In breast cancer, similar to lung cancer, the down regulation of let-7a was linked with poor prognosis and invasion (34). In addition, *mir-21*, *mir-25*, and *mir-221* have been identified to be associated with solid cancer such as papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC). Volinia et al. in 2006 carried out a genome-wide *mirNome* study that included stomach, colon, prostate, and breast cancers and found that solid tumors over expressed *mirNAs* such as *iR-17-5p*, *mir-21*, *mir-20a*, *mir-92*, *mir-106a*, and *mir-155*. Some evidences indicated that *mir-20* and *mir-106* can target the transforming growth factor b receptor II and retinoblastoma genes, respectively (34). On the other hand, there are significant differences in *mirNA* expression between normal and CLL B cells (35). Karube et al. in 2005 showed that low mRNA expression of Droscha and Dicer was associated with lung cancer with a remarkable prognostic potential on the survival of surgically treated cases and was implicated in reduction of genomic instability and transformation inhibition (36, 37). Argonaute genes such as AGO3, AGO1, and AGO4 are located in 1p34-35 and were found to be mutated in Wilms tumors and correlated with neuroectodermal tumors (38). Further research indicated that *mirNA* inhibition could be essential in designing drugs for disorders such as tumors.

4. *mirNA* Approach in Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment

Various studies have demonstrated the significant roles played by *mirNAs* in tumorigenesis and have explored their possible use as therapeutic biomarkers and their impact on the prognosis of human cancer (39). *mirNAs* can directly target cancer cells and aid in the treatment of other disorders (40). An RT-qPCR study revealed that *mirNAs* can be used to distinguish ErbB2 (HER2)-positive from ErbB2 (HER2)-negative and HER2-positive from HER2-negative breast tumors in biopsies (41). Overexpression of some *mirNAs* can decrease the expression levels of tumor suppressors or additional genes involved in cell differentiation and, therefore, lead to tumor development by stimulating angiogenesis, proliferation, and metastasis, i.e., these *mirNAs* function as oncogenes (42). Most researchers are focusing on non-invasive and inexpensive methods for diagnosis including assessment of plasma, serum, saliva, and urine for detection of *mirNA* levels. Welch and colleagues in 2007 indicated that *mir-34a* is involved in neuroblastoma cell tumorigenesis as a potential tumor suppressor (43). Cochetti et al. in 2016 demonstrated that let-7i, *mir-195*, and *mir-26a* were elevated in the serum of patients with prostate tumor compared to those with benign prostate hyperplasia (Table 1 shows microRNA abnormality in tumorigenesis) (44). In addition, circulating *mir-141* and *mir-375* levels were found to be associated with metastatic prostate cancer and could be used as a prognostic biomarker. Bianchi et al. showed that *mir-28*, *mir-30*, *mir-92*, *mir-140*, and *mir-451* have uncontrolled expression in lung cancer (45). Moreover, *mir-27*, *mir-158*, and *mir-200* were associated with metastatic colon cancer (46).

TABLE 1: MicroRNA abnormalities associated with tumorigenesis.

MicroRNA	Chromosomal location	cancer	Function	Expression	Ref
Let-7	11q24	colon, Lung, , breast, ovarian cancer	Tumor-suppressor	Down	(51)
<i>mir-15/-16</i>	13q31	CLL and prostate cancer	Tumor-suppressor	Down	(52)
<i>mir-26a</i>	3p22	liver cancer	Tumor-suppressor	Down	(53)
<i>mir-29</i>	7q32	AML, CLL, lung and breast	Tumor-suppressor	Down	(54)
<i>mir-31</i>	9p21.3	Breast, stomach, ovarian cancer	Tumor-suppressor	Down	(55)
<i>mir-34</i>	<i>mir-34</i>	Colon, ovarian, glioblastoma cancer	Tumor-suppressor	Down	(56)
<i>mir-96</i>	7q32.2	Pancreatic cancer	Tumor-suppressor	Down	(57)
<i>mir-107</i>	10q23.31	Colon and pancreatic cancer	Tumor-suppressor	Down	(42)
<i>mir-126</i>	9q34.3	Stomach and breast cancer	Tumor-suppressor	Down	(58)
<i>mir-181c</i>	19p13.12	Stomach cancer	Tumor-suppressor	Down	(59)
<i>mir-196</i>	17q21.32	Pancreatic cancer	Tumor-suppressor	Down	(60)
<i>mir-10b</i>	2q31.1	Breast, esophagus and glioblastoma cancer	Oncogene	up	(61)
<i>mir-17/92</i>	13q22	lung, colon, breast, cancer	Oncogene	up	(34)
<i>mir-21</i>	17q23.1	Lung, esophagus colon,liver,pancreatic, breast and glioblastoma cancer	Oncogene	up	(62)
<i>mir-155</i>	21q21	CLL, AML, breast, lung, colon cancer	Oncogene	up	(34, 63)
<i>mir-181b</i>	1q32.1	Liver cancer and myeloma	Oncogene	up	(64)
<i>mir-196</i>	17q21.32	Esophagus, glioblastoma and colon	Oncogene	up	(65)
<i>mir-200a/b</i>	1p36.33	Ovarian cancer	Oncogene	up	(66)
<i>mir-221/-222</i>	Xp11	lung cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma	Oncogene	up	(67)

4.1. Genetic variation

Since 2004, different evidences have demonstrated that about half of the *mir*NA are found in fragile sites and tumor susceptibility regions (47). Different studies involving mapping repetitive sequences, breakpoints and CpG islands have been performed to confirm the association of *mir*NA genes with fragile sites (48). In addition, certain mutations that result in changes in *mir*NA sequences might be involved in down-regulation of cancer suppressor genes and lead to oncogenesis. Thus, several genetic polymorphisms influence *mir*NA molecular pathways and processing of *mir*NA precursors (49).

4.2. Epigenetic alteration

Aberrant epigenetic processes a well-known feature of malignant cells and possibly happens in primary stage of cell cycles. Epigenetic alterations leading to DNA methylation and histone modification have been noted in particular cancers (49). Most studies have utilized chromatin remodeling therapy to address epigenetic change of microRNAs (50).

5. Conclusion

Diagnostic, predictive and therapeutic potentials of *mir*NAs have been significantly determined by various research studies. Numerous evidences suggest that *mir*NAs can act as tumor suppressive or oncogenes and can be incorporated into novel cancer therapies. Performing comprehensive and well-designed, retrospective and prospective studie swill enable better characterization of the potentials of *mir*NAs. Furthermore, studies on least invasive procedures comprising blood, saliva and urine collection will help in the expansion of cost-effective and reliable *mir*NA-based technology for early cancer detection.

Acknowledgments

The authors are acknowledgment of the molecular medicine department of Birjand University of Medical Science.

Conflicts of Interest

None

References

- [1] Bartel DP. MicroRNAs: target recognition and regulatory functions. *Cell*. 2009;136(2):215-33.
- [2] Reddy KB. MicroRNA (*mir*NA) in cancer. *Cancer cell Int*. 2015;15(1):38.
- [3] GAO N, LI L-j. Micro-RNA and cancer. *Int J Stomatol Occlusion Med*. 2008;5:029.
- [4] Garzon R, Calin GA, Croce CM. MicroRNAs in cancer. *Annu Rev Med*. 2009;60:167-79.
- [5] Bruce JP, Hui AB, Shi W, Perez-Ordonez B, Weinreb I, Xu W, et al. Identification of a microRNA signature associated with risk of distant metastasis in nasopharyngeal carcinoma. *Oncotarget*. 2015;6(6):4537.
- [6] Esquela-Kerscher A, Slack FJ. *Oncomirs*—microRNAs with a role in cancer. *Nat Rev Cancer*. 2006;6(4):259.
- [7] Pourtalebi-Firoozabadi A, Mohamadian M, Parsamanesh N, Moossavi M, Naseri M. Novel Insights to Celiac Disease: A review article. *ResMol Med*. 2016;4(2):1-8.
- [8] Griffiths-Jones S, Grocock RJ, Van Dongen S, Bateman A, Enright AJ. *mir*Base: microRNA sequences, targets and gene nomenclature. *Nucleic acids Res*. 2006;34(suppl_1):D140-D4.
- [9] He L, Hannon GJ. MicroRNAs: small RNAs with a big role in gene regulation. *Nat Rev Genet*. 2004;5(7):522.
- [10] Garzon R, Marcucci G, Croce CM. Targeting microRNAs in cancer: rationale, strategies and challenges. *NatRev Drug Discov*. 2010;9(10):775.
- [11] Bader AG, Brown D, Winkler M. The promise of microRNA replacement therapy. *Cancer Res*. 2010;70(18):7027-30.

- [12] Krol J, Loedige I, Filipowicz W. The widespread regulation of microRNA biogenesis, function and decay. *Nat Rev Genet.* 2010;11(9):597.
- [13] Talmor-Neiman M, Stav R, Frank W, Voss B, Arazi T. Novel micro-RNAs and intermediates of micro-RNA biogenesis from moss. *Plant J.* 2006;47(1):25-37.
- [14] Cai X, Hagedorn CH, Cullen BR. Human microRNAs are processed from capped, polyadenylated transcripts that can also function as mRNAs. *Rna.* 2004;10(12):1957-66.
- [15] Lee Y, Ahn C, Han J, Choi H, Kim J, Yim J, et al. The nuclear RNase III Drosha initiates microRNA processing. *Nature.* 2003;425(6956):415.
- [16] Bernstein E, Caudy AA, Hammond SM, Hannon GJ. Role for a bidentate ribonuclease in the initiation step of RNA interference. *Nature.* 2001;409(6818):363.
- [17] MacFarlane L-A, R Murphy P. MicroRNA: biogenesis, function and role in cancer. *CurrGen.* 2010;11(7):537-61.
- [18] Khvorova A, Reynolds A, Jayasena SD. Functional siRNAs and *mir*NAs exhibit strand bias. *Cell.* 2003;115(2):209-16.
- [19] Schwarz DS, Hutvagner G, Du T, Xu Z, Aronin N, Zamore PD. Asymmetry in the assembly of the RNAi enzyme complex. *Cell.* 2003;115(2):199-208.
- [20] Doench JG, Sharp PA. Specificity of microRNA target selection in translational repression. *GenesDev.* 2004;18(5):504-11.
- [21] Rajewsky N, Socci ND. Computational identification of microRNA targets. *Genome Biol.* 2004;5(2):P5.
- [22] Cummins J, Velculescu V. Implications of micro-RNA profiling for cancer diagnosis. *Oncogene.* 2006;25(46):6220.
- [23] Lu J, Getz G, Miska EA, Alvarez-Saavedra E, Lamb J, Peck D, et al. MicroRNA expression profiles classify human cancers. *Nature.* 2005;435(7043):834.
- [24] Moossavi M, Parsamanesh N, Bahrami A, Atkin SL, Sahebkar A. Role of the NLRP3 inflammasome in cancer. *Mol Cancer.* 2018;17(1):158.
- [25] Peng Y, Croce CM. The role of MicroRNAs in human cancer. *Signal TransductTargetTher.* 2016;1:15004.
- [26] Calin G, Croce C. MicroRNAs and chromosomal abnormalities in cancer cells. *Oncogene.* 2006;25(46):6202.
- [27] Tagawa H, Seto M. A microRNA cluster as a target of genomic amplification in malignant lymphoma. *Leukemia.* 2005;19(11):2013.
- [28] Hayashita Y, Osada H, Tatematsu Y, Yamada H, Yanagisawa K, Tomida S, et al. A polycistronic microRNA cluster, *mir-17-92*, is overexpressed in human lung cancers and enhances cell proliferation. *Cancer Res.* 2005;65(21):9628-32.
- [29] O'donnell KA, Wentzel EA, Zeller KI, Dang CV, Mendell JT. c-Myc-regulated microRNAs modulate E2F1 expression. *Nature.* 2005;435(7043):839.
- [30] Chang T-C, Yu D, Lee Y-S, Wentzel EA, Arking DE, West KM, et al. Widespread microRNA repression by Myc contributes to tumorigenesis. *NatGenet.* 2008;40(1):43.
- [31] Chakraborty C, Sharma AR, Sharma G, Sarkar BK, Lee S-S. The novel strategies for next-generation cancer treatment: *mir*NA combined with chemotherapeutic agents for the treatment of cancer. *Oncotarget.* 2018;9(11):10164.
- [32] Piperigkou Z, Manou D, Karamanou K, Theocharis AD. Strategies to Target Matrix Metalloproteinases as Therapeutic Approach in Cancer. *Methods Mol Biol.* 2018. p. 325-48.
- [33] Chand M, Keller DS, Mirnezami R, Bullock M, Bhangu A, Moran B, et al. Novel biomarkers for patient stratification in colorectal cancer: A review of definitions, emerging concepts, and data. *WJGO.* 2018;10(7):145.
- [34] Volinia S, Calin GA, Liu C-G, Ambs S, Cimmino A, Petrocca F, et al. A microRNA expression signature of human solid tumors defines cancer gene targets. *PNAS.* 2006;103(7):2257-61.
- [35] Calin GA, Liu C-G, Sevignani C, Ferracin M, Felli N, Dumitru CD, et al. MicroRNA profiling reveals distinct signatures in B cell chronic lymphocytic leukemias. *PNAS.* 2004;101(32):11755-60.
- [36] Karube Y, Tanaka H, Osada H, Tomida S, Tatematsu Y, Yanagisawa K, et al. Reduced expression of Dicer associated with poor prognosis in lung cancer patients. *Cancer Sci.* 2005;96(2):111-5.
- [37] Kanellopoulou C, Muljo SA, Kung AL, Ganesan S, Drapkin R, Jenuwein T, et al. Dicer-deficient mouse embryonic stem cells are defective in differentiation and centromeric silencing. *Genes Dev.* 2005;19(4):489-501.
- [38] Nelson P, Kiriakidou M, Sharma A, Maniataki E, Mourelatos Z. The microRNA world: small is mighty. *Trends BiochemSci.* 2003;28(10):534-40.
- [39] Hammond SM. microRNA detection comes of age. *Nat Methods.* 2006;3(1):12.
- [40] Xiao F, Bai Y, Chen Z, Li Y, Luo L, Huang J, et al. Downregulation of HOXA1 gene affects small cell lung cancer cell survival and chemoresistance under the regulation of *mir-100*. *Eur J Cancer.* 2014;50(8):1541-54.

- [41] Mattie MD, Benz CC, Bowers J, Sensinger K, Wong L, Scott GK, et al. Optimized high-throughput microRNA expression profiling provides novel biomarker assessment of clinical prostate and breast cancer biopsies. *MolCancer*. 2006;5(1):24.
- [42] Shenouda SK, Alahari SK. MicroRNA function in cancer: oncogene or a tumor suppressor? *Cancer Metast Rev*. 2009;28(3-4):369.
- [43] Welch C, Chen Y, Stallings R. MicroRNA-34a functions as a potential tumor suppressor by inducing apoptosis in neuroblastoma cells. *Oncogene*. 2007;26(34):5017.
- [44] Cochetti G, Poli G, Guelfi G, Boni A, Egidi MG, Mearini E. Different levels of serum microRNAs in prostate cancer and benign prostatic hyperplasia: evaluation of potential diagnostic and prognostic role. *OncoTargets Ther*. 2016;9:7545.
- [45] Bianchi F, Nicassio F, Marzi M, Belloni E, Dall'Olio V, Bernard L, et al. A serum circulating *mir*NA diagnostic test to identify asymptomatic high-risk individuals with early stage lung cancer. *EMBO MolMed*. 2011;3(8):495-503.
- [46] Kjersem J, Ikdahl T, Lingjaerde O, Guren T, Tveit K, Kure E. Plasma microRNAs predicting clinical outcome in metastatic colorectal cancer patients receiving first-line oxaliplatin-based treatment. *MolOncol*. 2014;8(1):59-67.
- [47] Calin GA, Sevignani C, Dumitru CD, Hyslop T, Noch E, Yendamuri S, et al. Human microRNA genes are frequently located at fragile sites and genomic regions involved in cancers. *PNAS*. 2004;101(9):2999-3004.
- [48] Lamy P, Andersen C, Dyrskjøt L, Tørring N, Ørntoft T, Wiuf C. Are microRNAs located in genomic regions associated with cancer? *BrJCancer*. 2006;95(10):1415.
- [49] Mishra PJ, Mishra PJ, Banerjee D, Bertino JR. *Mir*SNPs or *Mir*-polymorphisms, new players in microRNA mediated regulation of the cell: Introducing microRNA pharmacogenomics. *Cell Cycle*. 2008;7(7):853-8.
- [50] Weber B, Stresemann C, Brueckner B, Lyko F. Methylation of human microRNA genes in normal and neoplastic cells. *Cell cycle*. 2007;6(9):1001-5.
- [51] Iorio MV, Ferracin M, Liu C-G, Veronese A, Spizzo R, Sabbioni S, et al. MicroRNA gene expression deregulation in human breast cancer. *Cancer Res*. 2005;65(16):7065-70.
- [52] Bonci D, Coppola V, Musumeci M, Addario A, Giuffrida R, Memeo L, et al. The *mir-15a-mir-16-1* cluster controls prostate cancer by targeting multiple oncogenic activities. *NatMed*. 2008;14(11):1271.
- [53] Meng F, Henson R, Wehbe-Janek H, Ghoshal K, Jacob ST, Patel T. MicroRNA-21 regulates expression of the PTEN tumor suppressor gene in human hepatocellular cancer. *Gastroenterology*. 2007;133(2):647-58.
- [54] Di Leva G, Croce CM. *mir*NA profiling of cancer. *CurrOpinGenetics Dev*. 2013;23(1):3-11.
- [55] Valastyan S, Reinhardt F, Benaich N, Calogrias D, Szász AM, Wang ZC, et al. RETRACTED: a pleiotropically acting microRNA, *mir-31*, inhibits breast cancer metastasis. Elsevier; 2009.
- [56] Tazawa H, Tsuchiya N, Izumiya M, Nakagama H. Tumor-suppressive *mir-34a* induces senescence-like growth arrest through modulation of the E2F pathway in human colon cancer cells. *PNAS*. 2007;104(39):15472-7.
- [57] Yu S, Lu Z, Liu C, Meng Y, Ma Y, Zhao W, et al. *mir*NA-96 suppresses KRAS and functions as a tumor suppressor gene in pancreatic cancer. *Cancer Res*. 2010;0008-5472. CAN-09-4531.
- [58] Liu B, Peng X-C, Zheng X-L, Wang J, Qin Y-W. *Mir-126* restoration down-regulate VEGF and inhibit the growth of lung cancer cell lines in vitro and in vivo. *Lung cancer*. 2009;66(2):169-75.
- [59] Zhang L, Wang X, Chen P. *Mir-204* down regulates SIRT1 and reverts SIRT1-induced epithelial-mesenchymal transition, anoikis resistance and invasion in gastric cancer cells. *BMC cancer*. 2013;13(1):290.
- [60] Zhang BG, Li JF, Yu BQ, Zhu ZG, Liu BY, Yan M. microRNA-21 promotes tumor proliferation and invasion in gastric cancer by targeting PTEN. *OncolRep*. 2012;27(4):1019-26.
- [61] Guessous F, Alvarado-Velez M, Marcinkiewicz L, Zhang Y, Kim J, Heister S, et al. Oncogenic effects of *mir-10b* in glioblastoma stem cells. *JNeuro-Oncol*. 2013;112(2):153-63.
- [62] Acunzo M, Romano G, Wernicke D, Croce CM. MicroRNA and cancer—a brief overview. *Advances in biological regulation*. 2015;57:1-9.
- [63] Croce CM. Causes and consequences of microRNA dysregulation in cancer. *NatRevGenet*. 2009;10(10):704.
- [64] Iliopoulos D, Jaeger SA, Hirsch HA, Bulyk ML, Struhl K. STAT3 activation of *mir-21* and *mir-181b-1* via PTEN and CYLD are part of the epigenetic switch linking inflammation to cancer. *MolCell*. 2010;39(4):493-506.
- [65] Hezova R, Kovarikova A, Bienertova-Vasku J, Sachlova M, Redova M, Vasku A, et al. Evaluation of SNPs in *mir-196-a2*, *mir-27a* and *mir-146a* as risk factors of colorectal cancer. *World journal of gastroenterology: WJG*. 2012;18(22):2827.

- [66] Bendoraitė A, Knouf EC, Garg KS, Parkin RK, Kroh EM, O'Briant KC, et al. Regulation of *mir-200* family microRNAs and ZEB transcription factors in ovarian cancer: evidence supporting a mesothelial-to-epithelial transition. *GynecolOncol.* 2010;116(1):117-25.
- [67] Galardi S, Mercatelli N, Giorda E, Massalini S, Frajese GV, Ciafrè SA, et al. *mir-221* and *mir-222* expression affects the proliferation potential of human prostate carcinoma cell lines by targeting p27Kip1. *JBiol Chem.* 2007. 282(32):23716-24