TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH

Peer Review File

Article information: http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/tcr-19-2806

Comment 1: The English writing could use editorial help to polish the wording and phrasing.

Reply 1: The grammar and spelling errors have been corrected and the amendments are highlighted in red.

Changes in the text**:** The revised phrases or words are highlighted in red (line 5 on page 4, line 16 on page 5, line 1 on page 7, and Table 2, respectively).

Comment 2: While the staining is quite impressive, I would like to see a comparison made with the following antibody - Recombinant Anti-Nova1 antibody [EPR13847] (ab183024) Abcam if possible.

Reply 2: We understand what the referee is saying. Immunohistochemistry staining results using different types of anti-NOVA1 antibodies is more convincing. We attempted various ways to get the antibody according to the recommendation but have not obtained it yet until now. For this reason, we provided supplementary materials about tissue sections stained with anti-NOVA1 antibody in our hands as experimental evidence. Moreover, in a previous study, our team also found that NOVA1 expression of SCLC specimens stained with another anti-NOVA1 antibody (Zsbio, Beijing, China) were significantly higher than that in NSCLC. The research results have been published in the journal Translational Cancer Research (http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/tcr.2019.12.99). In other word, NOVA1 is generally expressed in SCLC tissue and can be used as a novel neuroendocrine marker for pathological diagnosis of SCLC in clinical practice. We believe that our work really is innovative and dependable.

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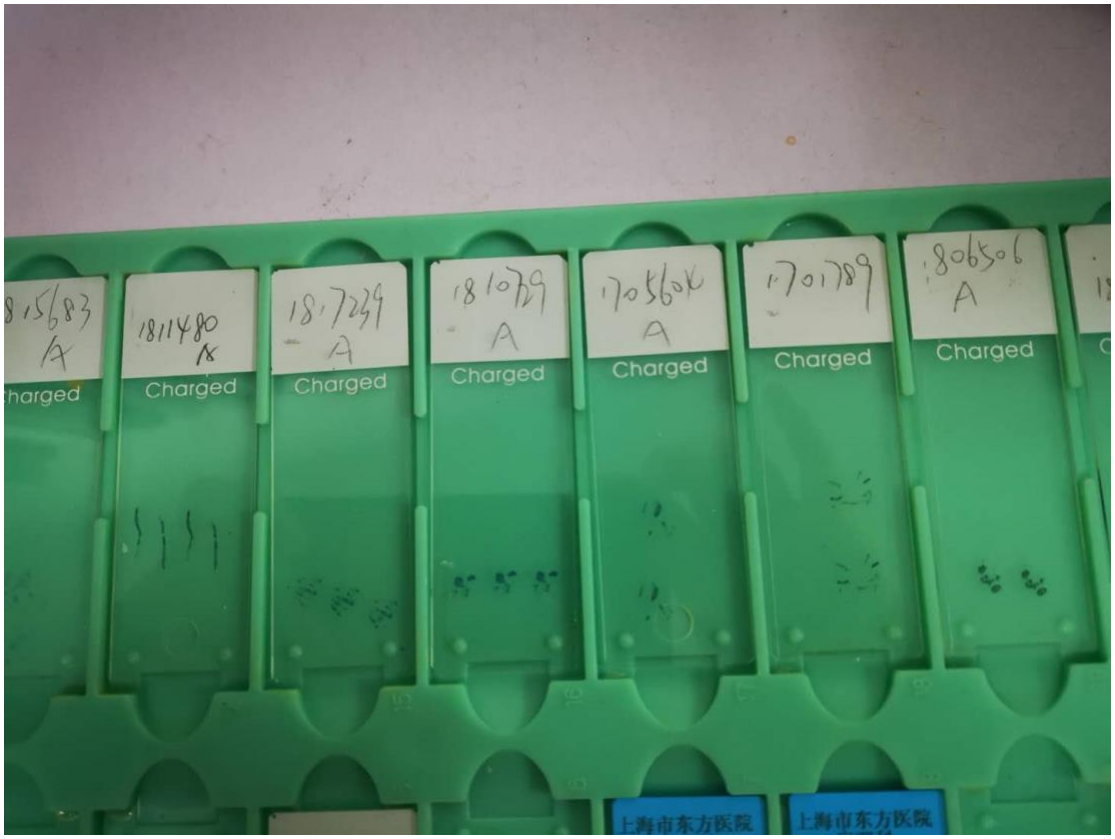

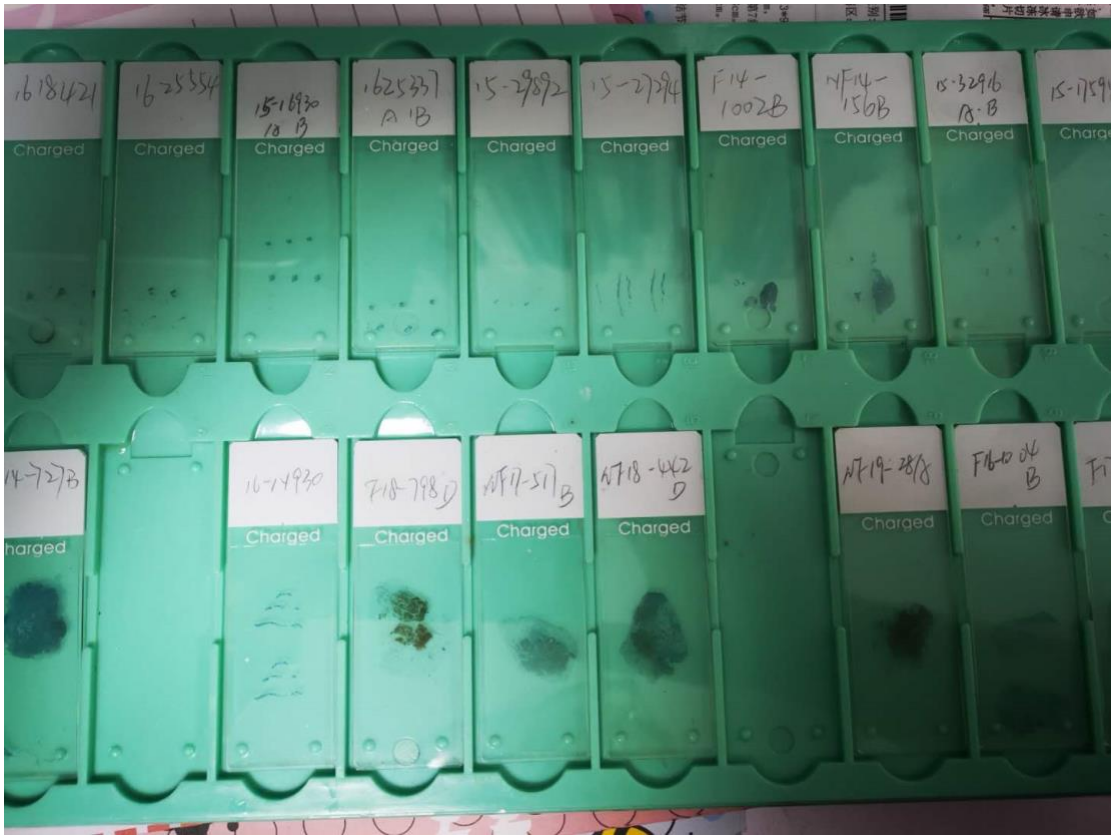

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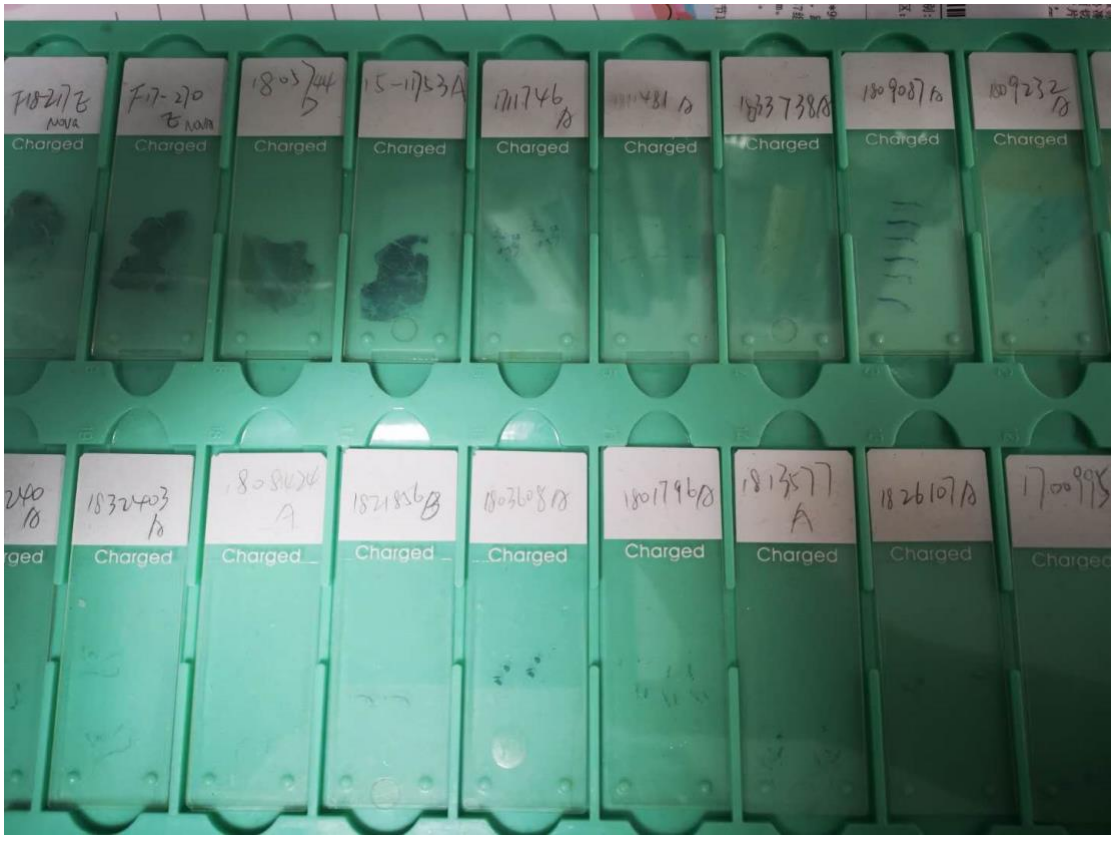

Comment 3: Could the authors provide documentation that the antibody they used is valid? Such as a loss of function knockdown test in SHP77 SCLC cells?

Reply 3: In the present study, we mainly focused on the clinical role of NOVA1 in SCLC including its correlation with clinicopathological characteristics and prognosis of SCLC patients. In previous work, our team studied NOVA1 expression in the SCLC (H446) cell line, compared with human bronchial epithelial (BEAS-2B), lung adenocarcinoma (A549) and SCC (H226) cell lines by RT-PCR. The finding showed that the mRNA level of NOVA1 expression was higher in the SCLC H446 cells than that in normal BEAS-2B bronchial epithelial cells and lung adenocarcinoma A549 or H226 SCC cells. We thought NOVA1 was specifically expressed in SCLC line on a molecular level as well. According to the reviewer's friendly hints, we have added the findings in the discussion of our manuscript. We are appreciative of the referee's suggest. And in the future study, we will deeply explore the effect of NOVA1 on migration and invasion of SCLC cytologically. Thank you very much.

Changes in the text: We gave some complementary discussions in line 5-9 of page 11 which were highlighted in red.