

# RETRACTED ARTICLE: *LINC00963* Promotes Ovarian Cancer Proliferation, Migration and EMT via the miR-378g/*CHI3LI* Axis

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**Background:** Long non-coding RNA (lncRNAs) are involved in the development and progression of numerous tumors. Nevertheless, their role in ovarian cancer (OC) needs further study.

**Methods:** A pivotal lncRNA that modulated OC to metastasize was determined in this research, and its potential mechanism was acquired by qRT-PCR, CCK-8, EdU, Transwell assay, wound healing assay and Western blot assay.

**Results:** In our study, the GSE119064 microarray was analyzed, and *LINC00963* showed a significant higher level in ovarian cancer tissues compared with controls. So *LINC00963* was selected as research object. It was discovered that *LINC00963* displayed a close relationship with unfavorable prognosis, and it was prominently raised in OC tissues of patients with lymph node metastasis. What's more, *LINC00963* downregulation in OC cells inhibited cell migration and invasion and inhibited EMT triggered by TGF- $\beta$ 1. *LINC00963* downregulation also inhibited tumorigenesis in nude mice. In addition, results show that *LINC00963* is a cytoplasmic lncRNA that shares the miRNA response elements (MREs) of miR-378g with *CHI3LI*, which was confirmed by a luciferase reporter assay and AGO2-dependent RNA immunoprecipitation (RIP).

**Conclusion:** On the whole, our results demonstrate an explicit oncogenic role of *LINC00963* in ovarian cancer tumorigenesis via competition with miR-378g, suggesting a new regulatory mechanism of *LINC00963* and providing a potential therapeutic target for ovarian cancer patients.

**Keywords:** ovarian cancer, migration, miR-378g, *CHI3LI*, *LINC00963*

## Introduction

Ovarian cancer ranks sixth of the most common cancers among females worldwide,<sup>1</sup> and eighth of the most common death causes related to cancers.<sup>2</sup> Although surgery and chemotherapy can improve the survival, the 5-year survival rate remains low (45%).<sup>3</sup> OC is a heterogeneous disease with complex molecular and genetic changes.<sup>4</sup> Epithelial OC is the most common OC type, and as 70% of cases are in stage III or IV at first diagnosis, the prognosis is unsatisfactory.<sup>5</sup> Hence, there is a necessity to expounding the complex molecular features of OC for its diagnosis and treatment.

lncRNAs with no ability to encode proteins are transcripts with exceeding 200 nucleotides in length and have captured growing attention in the past several decades.<sup>6</sup> They can be sorted into sense or antisense transcripts, intergenic transcripts and enhancer transcripts.<sup>7</sup> There are more and more evidences to show that lncRNAs can adjust the tumor to undergo immune evasion, formation, migration, autophagy, invasion and other pathologic and physiologic processes.<sup>8,9</sup> For instance, lncRNA Cox-2 changes the

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polarization of M1/M2 macrophages to preclude hepatocellular carcinoma from metastasis and immune escape;<sup>10</sup> additionally, lncRNA *DANCR* facilitates gastric cancer cells to invade and migrate by repressing lncRNA-*LET*.<sup>11</sup> It is reported that *LINC00963* activates the PI3K/AKT pathway to boost hepatocellular carcinoma to progress.<sup>12</sup> *LINC00963* also plays a part in prostate cancer transiting from androgen-dependence to androgen-independence.<sup>13</sup> And research has validated that *LINC00963*, as a competing endogenous RNA (ceRNA), targets miRNAs and their target genes in a direct manner so as to stimulate the tumor to progress,<sup>14</sup> but the possible molecular mechanisms exploited by *LINC00963* in modulating OC are rarely researched.

In this research, the GSE119054 microarray was analyzed, and *LINC00963* was found to exhibit a high expression in OC tissues. Importantly, results show that *LINC00963* perform its biological function via sponging miR-378g and enhancing the expression of *CHI3L1*. Herein, our research shows for the first time that the *LINC00963*/miR-378g/*CHI3L1* pathway promotes ovarian cancer proliferation and metastasis.

## Materials and Methods

### Samples of OC Patients

Thirty-five OC samples verified via two pathologists separately were collected from patients receiving operation in affiliated hospital of zunyi medical university. There were no patients undergoing preoperative chemotherapy. This research gained the approval of the Ethics Committee of affiliated hospital of zunyi medical university, and the consent was gained from all subjects in the written form.

### Cell Culture

American Type Culture Collection (USA) provided human OC cell lines (A2780, TOV112D, OVCAR-3 and SKOV3) and normal human ovarian cell line (ISOE80). A2780, TOV112D, OVCAR-3 and SKOV3 are all epithelioid and adherent OC cell lines. ISOE80 is ovarian surface epithelium cell line. These cells were raised in RPMI 1640 medium acquired from Gibco (USA) containing 100 U/mL of streptomycin/penicillin and 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), and then subjected to incubation in a humid environment containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37°C.

### Cell Transfection

RiBio (Guangzhou, China) commercially supplied siRNAs specific to *LINC00963* (si-*LINC00963*) and the scrambled oligonucleotides (si-NC). After raised in a six-well plate,

SKOV3 and A2780 cells underwent treatment with si-*LINC00963* or si-NC and miR-378g mimics or miR-NC (GenePharma, China) with the use of Lipofectamine 3000 acquired from Invitrogen (USA).

### Cell Segregation and Assessment via qRT-PCR

By reference to the guidance of the manufacturer (Ambion, TX), cells were segregated by means of a PARIS kit. Concisely, OC cells ( $1 \times 10^7$ ) underwent lysis in 1 mL cell segregation buffer and 15 min of centrifugation at 500 g. Next, TRIzol LS and TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen, USA) were independently employed to harvest the RNAs in the nuclear pellet and cell supernatant, and the total RNA was subjected to synthesis with the use of One Step gDNA Removal kit and DNase Synthesis SuperMix (TaKaRa, China). QRT-PCR was then implemented thrice on a LightCycler 480 system (Roche, Switzerland) by means of an SYBR Premix Ex Taq kit (TaKaRa, China). QRT-PCR primer sequences are shown below: *LINC00963*, F, 5'-GGTAAATCGAGGCCAGAGAT-3', R, 5'-ACGTGGATGACAGCGTGTGA-3'; *CHI3L1*, F, 5'-GTGAAGCGTCTCAAACAG-3', R, 5'-GAAGCGGTCAAGGGCATCT-3'; miR-378g, F, 5'-ACACTCCAGCTGGGGAAGACTGAGGTTC-2', reverse, 5'-CTCAACTGGTGTCGTGGAGTCGGCAATTCAGTTGAGAGCCCAGT-3'; GAPDH, F, 5'-CATGAGAACTATGACAACAGCCT-3', R, 5'-AGTCCCTCCACGATACCAAAGT-3'. 2<sup>-ΔΔCt</sup> method was adopted for the calculation of mRNA and miRNA expression levels, which normalized to GAPDH or U6 level.

### Transwell Test

Invasion and migration abilities were tested with the use of Boyden Chamber (pore size: 8 μm, BD Biosciences, USA). With respect to the invasion test, OC cells ( $1 \times 10^5$ ) were raised in the top chamber covered with Corning Matrigel (USA) in advance. With regard to the migration test, the top chamber containing no Matrigel was added with OC cells ( $1 \times 10^5$ ). After 24 h for SKOV3 cells or 36 h for A2780 cells, the bottom chambers were dyed and quantified.

### Western Blotting

RIPA buffer with protease inhibitors was utilized to lyse OC cells. Subsequently, the total proteins were isolated with the use of the SDS-PAGE gel and transferred to a PVDF membrane provided by Millipore (USA). Afterwards, primary and proper secondary antibodies (Proteintech, USA) were

utilized to incubate the membranes at 4°C overnight subsequent to washing with TBST. The outcomes were examined by utilizing an ECL reagent acquired from Thermo (USA).

## Luciferase Reporter Test

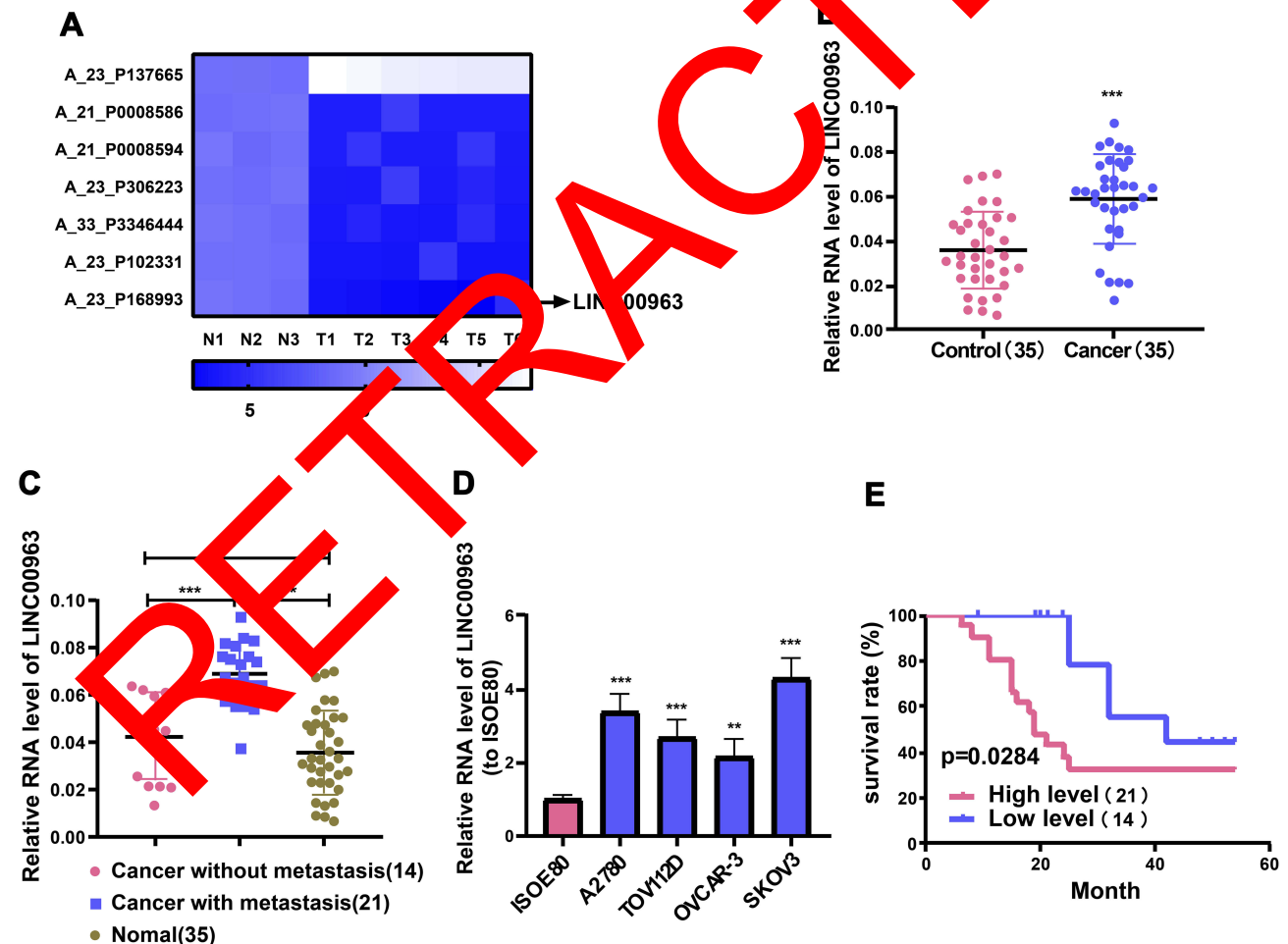
Partial wild-type sequences of *LINC00963* and *CHI3L1* 3'-UTR or those with mutant *LINC00963* and *CHI3L1* were designed and obtained from GenePharma (Shanghai, China). Then, the pair of oligonucleotides undergoing annealing was inset into pmirGLO dual-luciferase miRNA Target Expression Vector (Promega, USA) to supply the craved reporter constructs. Placed in the twenty-four-well plate, OC cells were treated with pmirGLO reporters (100 ng) and miR-378g/miR-NC (50 nM), followed by 48 h of incubation. In the end, a dual-luciferase assay system acquired from Promega (USA) was employed to measure the luciferase activity in cell lysates.

## RNA Immunoprecipitation (RIP)

A Magna RIP Kit bought from Millipore (USA) was utilized to test combination of miR-378g and *LINC00963*. AGO2 antibody (ab32381, Abcam) was employed for RIP assay, and OC cells underwent miR-378g mimics/miR-NC treatment. *LINC00963* and miR-378g levels were measured, followed by normalization to the input levels.

## Cell Proliferation Assay

The transfected cells were inserted into a ninety-six-well plate with  $5 \times 10^3$  cells per well. Subsequent to transfection for 48 h, CCK-8 purchased from Sigma (USA) was adopted for the determination of cell activity in line with the guidance of the manufacturer. At length, EdU assay was implemented on the basis of standard procedure.



**Figure 1** *LINC00963* is raised in OC tissues and predicts unsatisfactory prognosis. Microarray for analysis is GSE119054 from platform GPL19615. Differentially expressed RNAs are identified based on the criteria of log2 fold change >6 or <-6 and *p* value less than 0.05. **(A)** Heat map showing lncRNAs with aberrant expression in OC tissues. **(B)** QRT-PCR examination of *LINC00963* expression levels in OC and adjacent non-tumor tissues. **(C)** Differences in the expression level of *LINC00963* in normal tissues, metastatic tumor tissues and non-metastatic tumor tissues. **(D)** QRT-PCR detection of *LINC00963* levels in OC cell lines (SKOV3, A2780, OVCAR-3 and TOV112D) and normal human ovarian cell line (ISOE80). **(E)** Overall survival rate of OC patients with high or low *LINC00963* levels is revealed by Kaplan-Meier analysis. \**p*<0.05, \*\**p*<0.01, \*\*\**p*<0.001.

## Wound Healing Assay

Prior to the scratching of the monolayers with the use of a pipette tip (200  $\mu$ L), the cells were raised until the fusion reached 80% in the six-well plate, rinsed with PBS and cultured in the medium with no FBS. A microscope was utilized to observe wounds, followed by photographing at 0 and 24 h.

## Statistical Analysis

Obtained data were displayed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation. SPSS 20.0 software and Graphpad Prism 7.0 software were adopted for data assessment and graphing. One-way ANOVA or Student's *t*-test were implemented for intergroup comparisons. The log rank test was carried out to plot Kaplan-Meier survival curves. Besides, the relationship between two variates was figured out via Spearman correlation analysis. The data were eventually obtained via independent assays conducted thrice. *P*<0.05 denoted a statistically significant difference.

## Results

### *LINC00963* Was the Most Elevated lncRNA in OC Tissues and Represented an Unsatisfactory Prognosis

Through analyzing the GSE119054 microarray, *LINC00963* was discovered to display a high expression in OC tissues. Differentially expressed lncRNAs were identified based on the criteria of log2 fold change >6 or <-6 and *p* value <0.05. The differentially expressed lncRNAs including *LINC00963* were identified in OC tissues (Figure 1A). Then, it was verified in the samples by qRT-PCR. It was found that *LINC00963* was markedly upregulated in OC tissues compared with the adjacent non-tumor tissues (Figure 1B). And *LINC00963* was predominantly raised in OC tissues of patients undergoing metastasis of lymph nodes (Figure 1C). Further, *LINC00963* expression level evidently went up in OC cell lines (SKOV3, A2780, TOV112D and OVCAR-3) compared with normal human ovarian cell line (ISOE80) (Figure 1D). To determine the clinical role of *LINC00963*, we analyzed the correlation between *LINC00963* levels and the clinicopathological features of 35 OC patients (Table 1). High *LINC00963* level in OC tissues was intimately associated with metastasis rate of lymph nodes (*p*=0.0332) and FIGO stage (*p*=0.0386). Nevertheless, *LINC00963* level was not strikingly associated with age, histological subtype or residual tumor diameter. Additionally, it was unfolded by Kaplan-Meier analysis that high *LINC00963* level in OC cases had a pronouncedly relationship with unsatisfactory

**Table 1** Association Between *LINC00963* Expression and Clinicopathological Factors in Ovarian Cancer Patients

Variable	High Expression (n=21)	Low Expression (n=14)	P-value
<b>Age (years)</b>			
<50	12	7	0.7391
$\geq$ 50	9	7	
<b>Histological Subtype</b>			
Serous	14	8	0.7241
Others	7	6	
<b>FIGO Stage</b>			
I-II	2	6	<b>0.0386</b>
III-IV	19	8	
<b>Residual Tumor Diameter (cm)</b>			
<1	8	8	<b>0.3167</b>
$\geq$ 1	13	6	
<b>Lymph Node Metastasis</b>			
Yes	16	5	<b>0.0332</b>
No	5	9	

**Note:** Total data from 35 tumor tissues of ovarian cancer patients were analyzed. For the expression of *LINC00963* was assayed by qRT-PCR. Data were analyzed by chi-squared test and Fisher's exact test. P-value in bold indicates statistically significant.

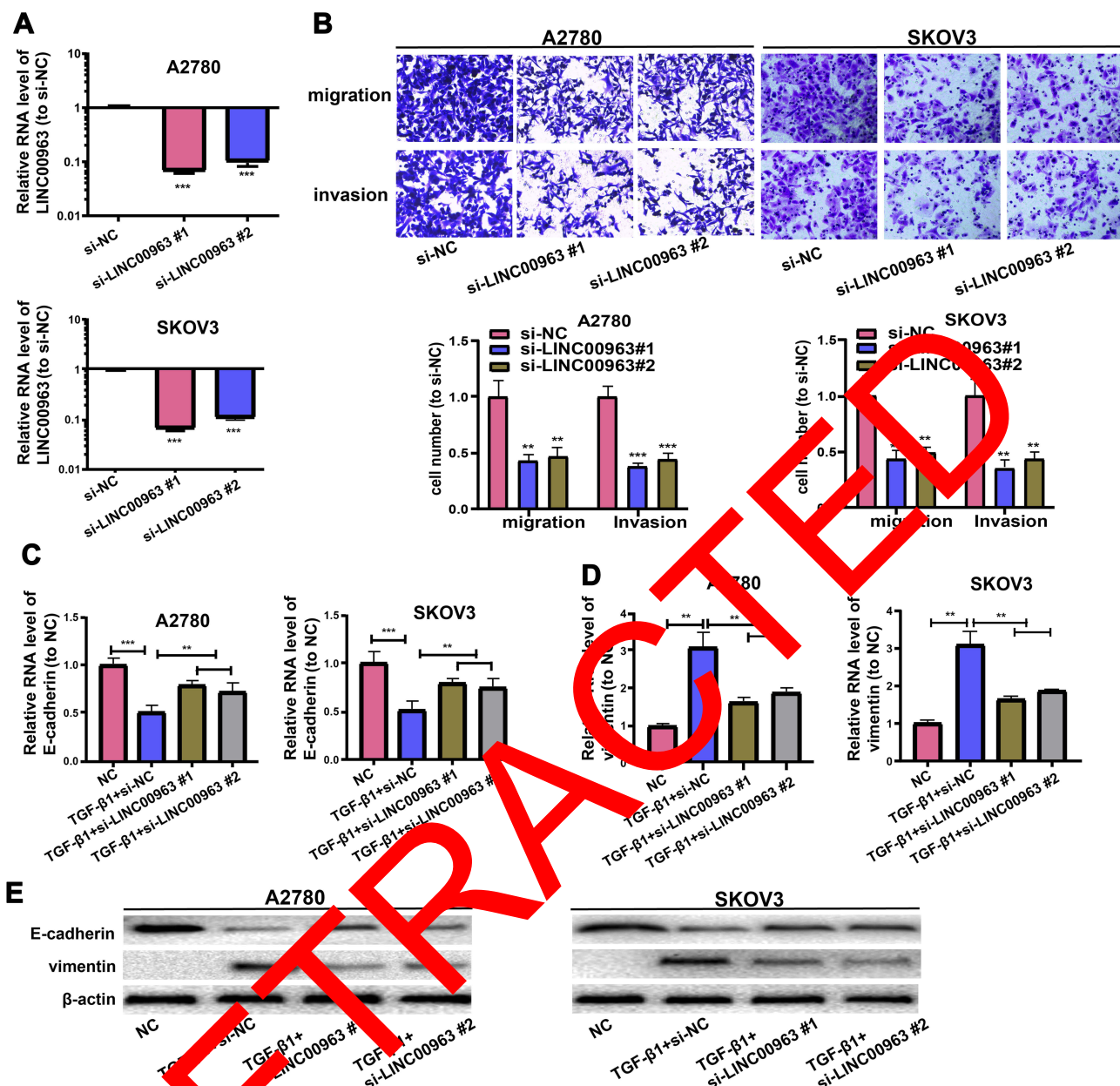
prognosis (Figure 1E). It can be concluded that *LINC00963* arises in OC tissues and cells and conspicuously influences OC to develop.

### *LINC00963* Diminution Stamped Down OC Cells to Migrate and Invade and Inversed EMT Triggered by TGF- $\beta$ 1

To ascertain function of *LINC00963* in OC metastasis, OC cells were treated with siR-*LINC00963* or si-NC in the first place, and qRT-PCR was exercised to examine *LINC00963* expression (Figure 2A). Afterwards, the function of *LINC00963* on the invasion and migration of OC cells were tested via Transwell assay. Figure 2B displays that *LINC00963* decrement strikingly stamps down SKOV3 and A2780 cells to invade and migrate separately.

Western blotting and qRT-PCR were executed to examine the expressions of EMT markers (E-cadherin and vimentin), so as to continuously inquire about the possible mechanism exploited by *LINC00963* in OC metastasis. In EMT triggered by TGF- $\beta$ 1 in SKOV3 and A2780 cells, vimentin was discovered to rise and E-cadherin to pronouncedly decline, which were inversed by treatment with si-*LINC00963* (Figure 2C-E).





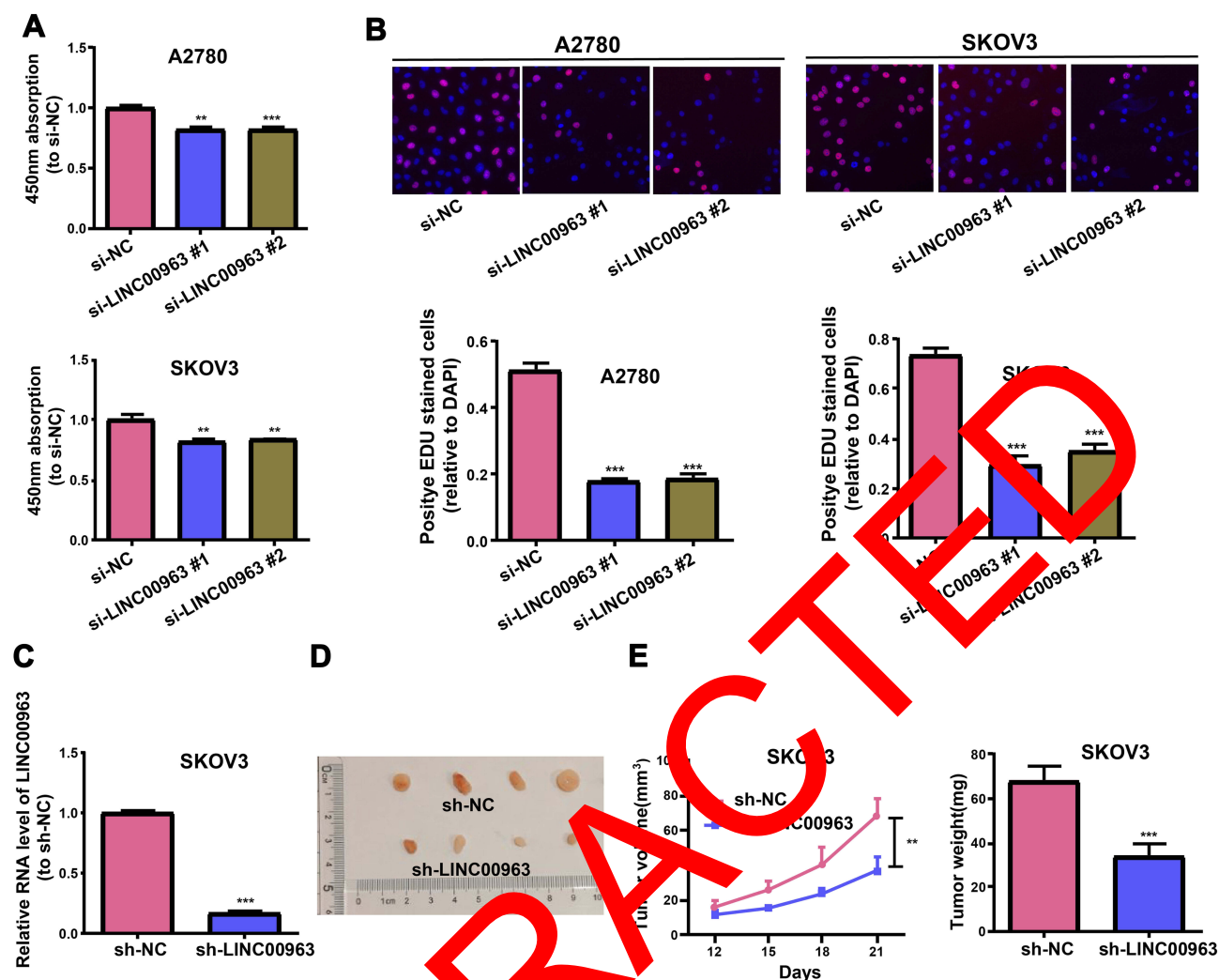
**Figure 2** *LINC00963* knockdown represses OC cells to migrate and invade. **(A)** *LINC00963* level is tested in OC cells undergoing treatment with si-*LINC00963* or si-NC. **(B)** Invasion and migration of OC cells undergoing treatment with si-*LINC00963* are shown in Transwell assay. **(C, D)** Expressions of E-cadherin and vimentin of EMT triggered by TGF-β1 in OC cells following *LINC00963* silencing or control are analyzed by qRT-PCR. **(E)** Expressions of E-cadherin and vimentin of EMT triggered by TGF-β1 in OC cells following *LINC00963* silencing or control are assessed via Western blotting. \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

In the end, the findings denote that *LINC00963* decrement represses cells to invade and migrate by triggering EMT.

## *LINC00963* Decrement Repressed OC Cells to Proliferate in vitro and in vivo

To continuously corroborate the function of *LINC00963* in OC proliferation, *LINC00963* decrement was found to obviously reduce the growth rate of SKOV3 and A2780 cells revealed by CCK-8 assay (Figure 3A). The results obtained by EdU assay

are consistent with those of CCK-8 (Figure 3B). Besides, SKOV3 cells with stable *LINC00963* decrement were generated, and the function of *LINC00963* in the growth of OC cells in the body was inquired (Figure 3C). It was discovered from Figure 3D and E that *LINC00963* decrement overtly repressed the growth curve of the tumor relative to NC. The tumor in *LINC00963* decrement group was conspicuously lighter relative to that in the control group. It can be inferred that *LINC00963* decrement in OC cells facilitates the suppression of cell growth inside and outside the body.



**Figure 3** *LINC00963* knockdown in OC represses cells to proliferate in vivo and in vitro. (A, B) CCK-8 and EdU assays examine the proliferation of OC cells receiving treatment with si-*LINC00963* or si-NC. (C) qRT-PCR measurement of *LINC00963* expression in *LINC00963* stable knockdown SKOV3 cells. (D) Heterotopic xenograft image. (E) Tumor volume in *LINC00963* knockdown and control groups was tested every 3 days, and tumor weight is detected subsequent to the resection of the tumor through surgery. \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

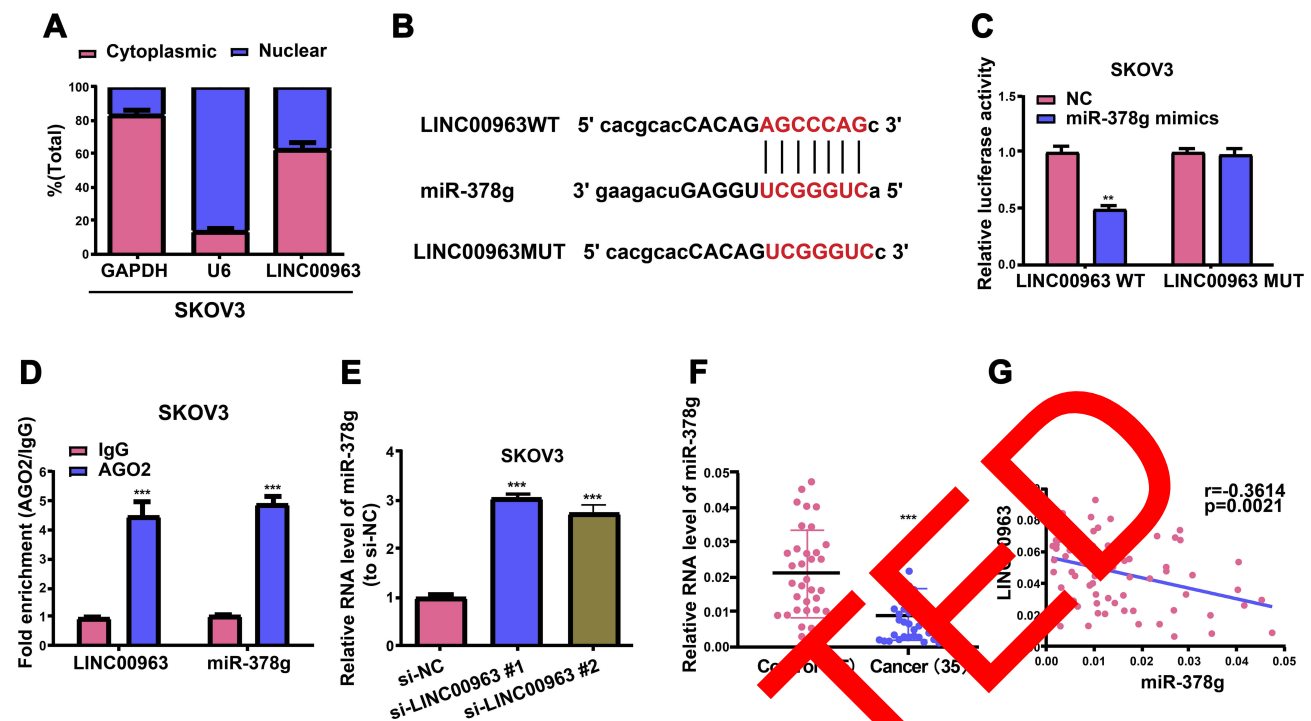
### *LINC00963* Sponges miR-378g in a Competitive Manner

Thereafter, a ceRNA model was utilized to inquire about the possible mechanism exploited by *LINC00963* in OC formation. In the first place, the presence of *LINC00963* in the cytoplasm was confirmed by cell segregation and qRT-PCR (Figure 4A). Secondly, the underlying binding site between miR-378g and *LINC00963* was forecasted via DIANA tools, and luciferase reporter assay was executed to validate their complementary combination (Figure 4B and C). Thereafter, RIP assay was implemented to corroborate the direct linking between miR-378g and *LINC00963*. According to qRT-PCR findings, miR-378g and *LINC00963* were abundantly enriched relative to IgG control group, revealing the direct

binding between miR-378g and *LINC00963* (Figure 4D). Besides, miR-378g expression level in OC cells undergoing si-*LINC00963* treatment was pronouncedly raised relative to that in the control group (Figure 4E). Eventually, miR-378g was discovered to evidently decline in OC cell samples, and *LINC00963* expression had an opposite trend to miR-378g expression (Figure 4F and G,  $r = -0.3614$ ,  $p = 0.0021$ ). At length, the findings above denote that *LINC00963* sponges miR-378g.

### MiR-378g Inhibited OC Cells to Proliferate and Migrate

A2780 and SKOV3 cells were treated with miR-378g mimics and miR-NC, and qRT-PCR results manifested



**Figure 4** *LINC00963* sponges miR-378g in a competitive manner. (A) The subcellular localization assays for *LINC00963* is determined through qRT-PCR. (B) The sketch map reflects the complementary binding sites between miR-378g and *LINC00963*. (C) The molecular binding between miR-378g and *LINC00963* is corroborated by luciferase reporter assay. (D) RIP and qRT-PCR assays are implemented to determine the enrichment of miR-378g and *LINC00963* in IgG pellet and AGO2 immunoprecipitation. (E) QRT-PCR demonstrates miR-378g expression in SKOV3 cells treated with si-*LINC00963* or si-NC. (F) miR-378g is evidently reduced in OC tissues. (G) Assessment of association reveals a reverse trend in miR-378g and *LINC00963* expressions in OC tissues.  $^{***}p < 0.001$ .

that miR-378g was evidently increased in cells undergone miR-378g mimics treatment (Figure 5A). After miR-378g mimics treatment, the proliferation abilities of 2780 and SKOV3 cells were measured via CCK-8 assay and EdU assay, which showed that miR-378g mimics inhibited OC cell proliferation (Figure 5B and C). Cell migration capacity was tested by wound healing assay, showing that miR-378g mimics inhibited OC cell migration (Figure 5D).

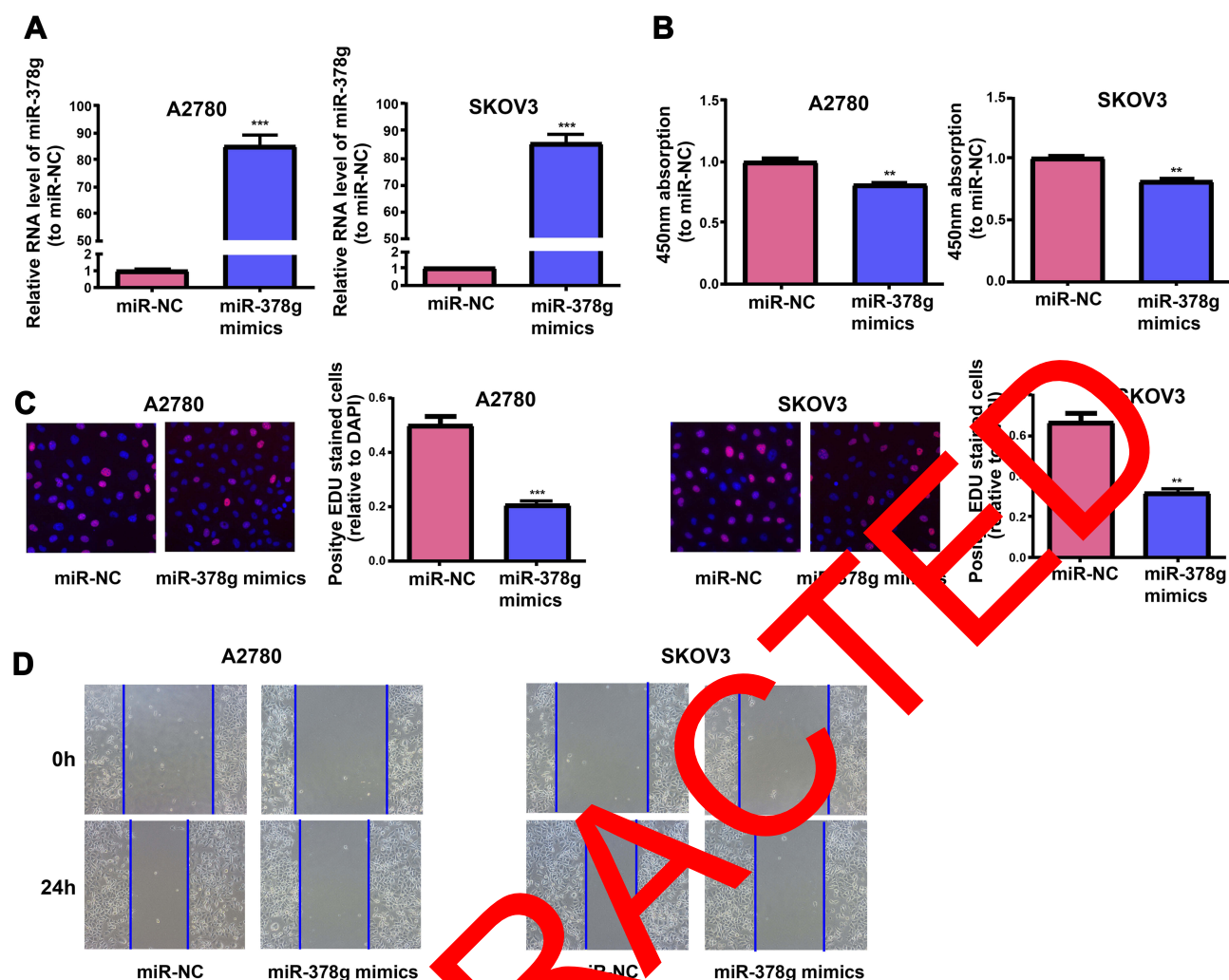
### miR-378g targets *CHI3L1* 3'UTR in a Direct Manner

*LINC00963* was proved to serve as an oncogene in OC formation and form a ceRNA regulatory network together with miR-378g. Next, the underlying target genes of the *LINC00963*/miR-378g axis were screened. A possible binding site of miR-378g in *CHI3L1* 3'UTR was discovered with the use of MiRanda and TargetScan tools. Wild-type and mutant luciferase reporter vectors containing miR-378g complementary sequence with *CHI3L1* were generated, and OC cells were treated with miR-378g mimics and plasmids, so as to ascertain the direct adjustment of miR-378g on *CHI3L1* (Figure 6A). It can be seen

that OC cells have notably weakened luciferase activity subsequent to treatment with wild-type *CHI3L1* vectors and miR-378g mimics, but the luciferase activity does not change in those treated with mutant *CHI3L1* plasmids (Figure 6B). Moreover, *CHI3L1* expression level in OC tissues was notably higher than that in adjacent non-tumor tissue (Figure 6C), which was inversely proportional to miR-378g (Figure 6D,  $r = -0.3662$ ,  $p = 0.0018$ ) but positively associated with *LINC00963* (Figure 6E,  $r = 0.2244$ ,  $p = 0.0618$ ). Further, miR-378g overexpression decrement evidently lowered the levels of *CHI3L1* mRNA and protein in OC cells corroborated by qRT-PCR and Western blotting (Figure 6F and G). And *LINC00963* knockdown decreased the mRNA levels of *CHI3L1* (Figure 6H). In conclusion, *LINC00963* promotes ovarian cancer proliferation, migration and EMT via the miR-378g/*CHI3L1* axis (Figure 7).

### Discussion

There is growing evidence in recent years proving that lncRNAs with aberrant expression participate in cancer pathogenesis as mainstay trans- or cis-modulators, which implies that lncRNAs can serve as novel targets for



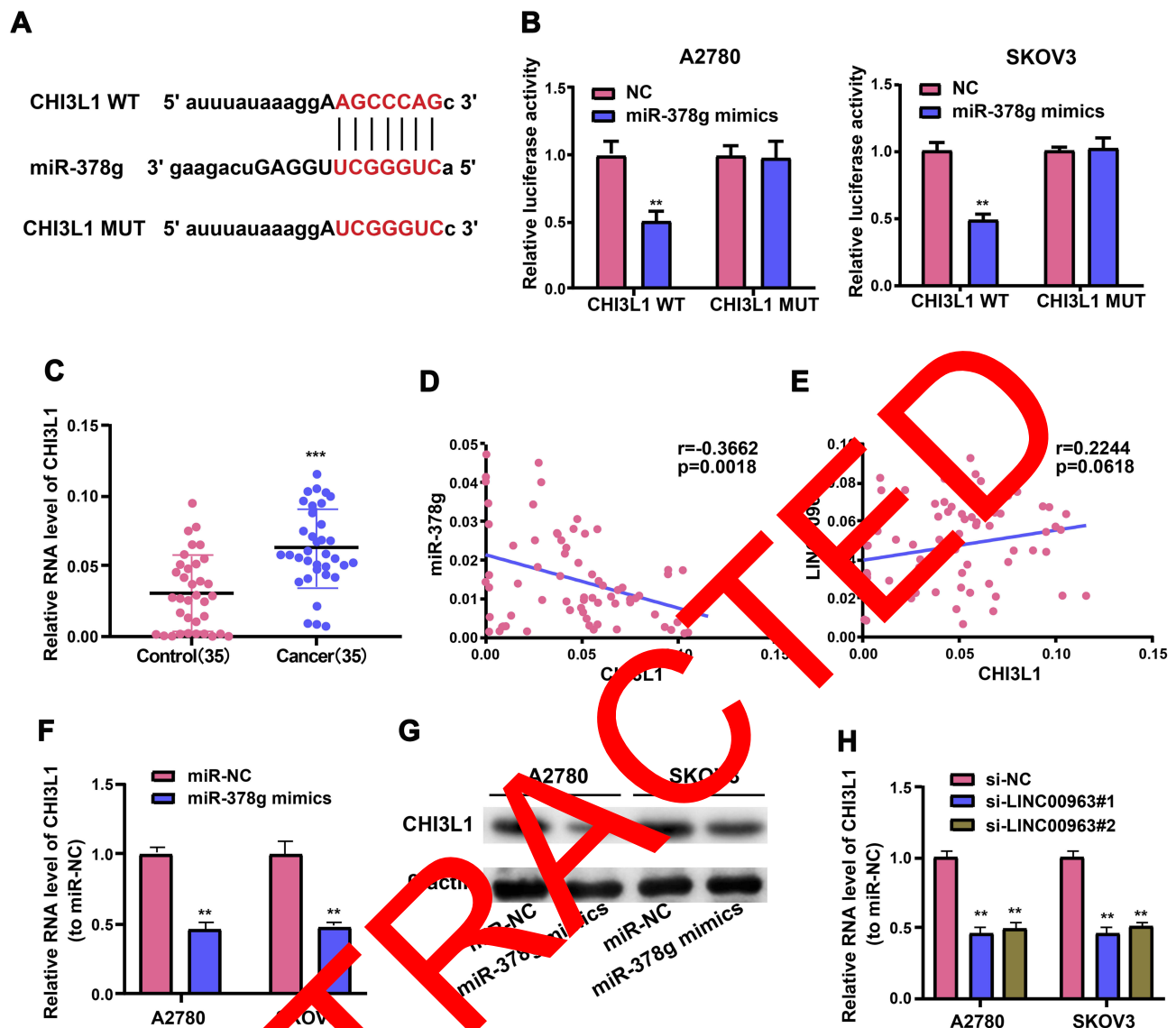
**Figure 5** MiR-378g mimics inhibits OC cells to proliferate and migrate. **(A)** QRT-PCR detection of miR-378g expressions in SKOV3 and A2780 cells treated with or without miR-378g mimics. The cell proliferation is tested in SKOV3 and A2780 cells treated with or without the miR-378g mimics via **(B)** CCK-8 assay and **(C)** EdU assay. **(D)** Wound healing assay is carried out to determine the migration of SKOV3 and A2780 cells treated with or without the miR-378g mimics. \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

assisting treatment and diagnosis of human neoplasms.<sup>15–18</sup> Nevertheless, the crucial pathophysiological functions of lncRNA in OC need to be further explored. In the first place, an lncRNA microarray was utilized to assess the level of lncRNA expression in OC tissues for the aim of figuring out the critical lncRNAs in OC. Numerous lncRNAs were revealed by the analysis of microarray expression to be expressed differently, and *LINC00963* was the most obviously raised lncRNA in OC tissues relative to the control group. So, we chose *LINC00963* for further study.

Several studies showed that lncRNAs can regulate the progress of OC by sponging miRNAs. Chen P and his collaborators found that *LINC00152* promotes cell proliferation through competitively binding endogenous miR-125b with *MCL-1* by regulating mitochondrial

apoptosis pathways in ovarian cancer.<sup>19</sup> Study of Liang H showed that lncRNA *PTAR* promotes EMT and invasion-metastasis in serous ovarian cancer by competitively binding miR-101-3p to regulate *ZEB1* expression.<sup>20</sup> The function of lncRNAs relies on their subcellular localization in the cell. The cytoplasmic lncRNAs often possess MREs linking with crucial proteins or binding to miRNAs.<sup>21–23</sup> In the present research, qRT-PCR analysis ascertained that the *LINC00963* was primarily present in the cytoplasm, which implies the function of *LINC00963* in modulating the level of downstream genes as a ceRNA. Next, bioinformatics analysis and in vitro experiments showed that miR-378g may directly interact with the *LINC00963*.





**Figure 6** *CHI3L1* is a direct target of miR-378g in OC cells. (A) Bioinformatics tools reveal the complementary binding sites between miR-378g and *CHI3L1*. (B) Luciferase reporter assay confirms a molecular binding between miR-378g and *CHI3L1*. (C) QRT-PCR assay measures *CHI3L1* expression in OC and adjacent non-tumor tissues. (D, E) Correlation analysis of *CHI3L1* with miR-378g and *LINC00963* in OC tissues. (F) QRT-PCR and (G) Western blotting test *CHI3L1* expression in OC cells treated with miR-378g mimics or miR-NC. (H) *CHI3L1* expression in OC cells after *LINC00963* silencing or control. \*\* $p<0.01$ , \*\*\* $p<0.001$ .

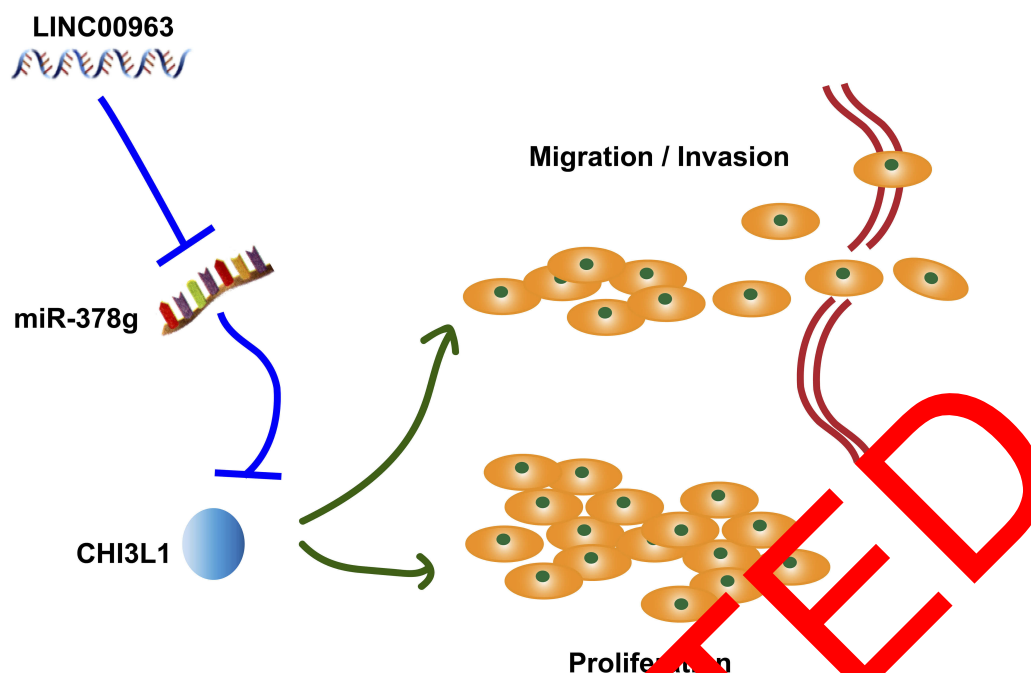
Recent studies showed that miR-378g was significantly reduced in colon cancer and enhanced radiosensitivity of nasopharyngeal carcinoma cells.<sup>25</sup> In our study, miR-378g was obviously downregulated in OC cancer tissues. In the meantime, the RIP assay showed that *LINC00963* and miR-378g shared the identical RISC. Ultimately, it was discovered in this research that *LINC00963* facilitated cells to invade and migrate through sponging miR-378g in OC. Nevertheless, whether other miRNAs could interact with *LINC00963* needs further study.

As a glycoprotein gained from secretion, *CHI3L1* modulates the polarization of macrophages, inflammation,

cancer formation and apoptosis.<sup>26–28</sup> It was corroborated in this research that *CHI3L1* was a direct target of miR-378g, displaying that *LINC00963* may stimulate OC cells to migrate, proliferate and invade through adjusting *CHI3L1* in a competitive way, thus casting a novel light on treating OC.

To sum up, *LINC00963* is proved to be strikingly raised in OC tissues and stimulate OC cells to metastasize and proliferate. What's more, *LINC00963* adjusts the miR-378g/*CHI3L1* axis as a ceRNA to boost OC cells to migrate and invade through the EMT process. Moreover, this research clinically ascertains that *LINC00963* serves





**Figure 7** LINC00963 participates in the process of OC by sponging miR-378g to upregulate CHI3L1 expression and promote the migration, invasion and proliferation of OC cells.

as an independent factor influencing the prognosis of OC patients.

## Acknowledgments

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## Data Sharing Statement

The datasets used and/or analyzed during the present study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

## Disclosure

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest in this work.

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