What is claimed is:

1. Use of a FGF19 variant in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor, or a symptom thereof, in a subject, wherein the FGF19 variant binds fibroblast growth factor receptor 4 (FGFR4) and has an amino acid sequence that is at least about 85% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3 [FGF19]; where said amino acid sequence has

   (a) deletion of the PLAFS sequence (amino acid residues 2-6 of SEQ ID NO:3 [FGF19]) and a DSSPL sequence substituted for the DAGPH sequence (amino acid residues 7-11 of SEQ ID NO:3 [FGF19]), or

   (b) deletion of the PLAFSDAGPH sequence (amino acid residues 2-11 of SEQ ID NO:3 [FGF19]).

2. The use of the FGF19 variant of claim 1, wherein the FGF19 variant has an amino acid sequence that is at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3 [FGF19].

3. The use of the FGF19 variant of claim 1, wherein the FGF19 variant comprises or consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 20–22, and 26–28.

4. Use of a FGF19 variant in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor, or a symptom thereof, in a subject, wherein the FGF19 variant comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

5. Use of a FGF19 variant in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor, or a symptom thereof, in a subject, wherein the FGF19 variant consists of SEQ ID NO: 1.

6. Use of a FGF19 variant in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor, or a symptom thereof, in a subject, wherein the FGF19 variant comprises SEQ ID NO: 18.

7. Use of a FGF19 variant in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor, or a symptom thereof, in a subject, wherein the FGF19 variant consists of SEQ ID NO: 18.

8. Use of a FGF19 variant in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor, or a symptom thereof, in a subject, wherein the FGF19 variant comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO: 20.

9. Use of a FGF19 variant in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing a FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor, or a symptom thereof, in a subject, wherein the FGF19 variant binds fibroblast growth factor receptor 4 (FGFR4) and has an amino acid sequence that is at least about 85% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3 [FGF19]; where said amino acid sequence has

(a) deletion of the PLAFS sequence (amino acid residues 2-6 of SEQ ID NO:3 [FGF19]) and a DSSPL sequence substituted for the DAGPH sequence (amino acid residues 7-11 of SEQ ID NO:3 [FGF19]), or

(b) deletion of the PLAFSDAGPH sequence (amino acid residues 2-11 of SEQ ID NO:3 [FGF19]).

10. The use of the FGF19 variant of claim 9, wherein the FGF19 variant has an amino acid sequence that is at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3 [FGF19].

11. The use of the FGF19 variant of claim 9, wherein the FGF19 variant comprises or consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 20–22, and 26–28.

12. Use of a FGF19 variant in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing a FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor, or a symptom thereof, in a subject, wherein the FGF19 variant comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

13. Use of a FGF19 variant in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing a FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor, or a symptom thereof, in a subject, wherein the FGF19 variant consists of SEQ ID NO: 1.

14. Use of a FGF19 variant in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing a FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor, or a symptom thereof, in a subject, wherein the FGF19 variant comprises SEQ ID NO: 18.

15. Use of a FGF19 variant in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing a FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor, or a symptom thereof, in a subject, wherein the FGF19 variant consists of SEQ ID NO: 18.

16. Use of a FGF19 variant in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing a FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor, or a symptom thereof, in a subject, wherein the FGF19 variant comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO: 20.

17. The use of the FGF19 variant of any one of claim 1 to 16, wherein FGF19 variant is fused with an immunoglobulin Fc region.

18. The use of the FGF19 variant of any one of claim 1 to 17, wherein the FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor is hepatocellular carcinoma, a colon cancer or tumor, a prostate cancer or tumor, or a lung cancer or tumor.

19. The use of the FGF19 variant of claim 18, wherein the FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor is hepatocellular carcinoma.

20. The use of the FGF19 variant of claim 18, wherein the FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor is a colon cancer or tumor.

21. The use of the FGF19 variant of claim 18, wherein the FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor is a prostate cancer or tumor.

22. The use of the FGF19 variant of claim 18, wherein the FGF19-dependent cancer or tumor is a lung cancer or tumor.

23. The use of the FGF19 variant of claims 1 to 22, wherein the subject is a subject in need thereof.