

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 65070

**Title:** Therapeutic potential of Thymoquinone in combination therapy against cancer and cancer stem cells

**Reviewer's code:** 03478911

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Chief Technician, Executive Vice President, Research Assistant Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Author's Country/Territory:** Lebanon

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-02-27

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-02-27 13:05

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-03-12 00:03

**Review time:** 12 Days and 10 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors reviewed the anticancer efficacy of thymoquinone with various anticancer agents, such as alkylating agents, antimetabolites, antimicrotubule, and topoisomerase inhibitors. Thymoquinone, a phytochemical compound derived from the annual herbaceous plant *Nigella sativa*, is known to be applicable to the treatment of various solid cancers. Therefore, the usage of thymoquinone combination with existing therapies is an interesting topic. However, there are some issues to be supplemented, including no report of clinical trial cases. My comments are as follows: 1. In the abstract, the conclusion should be added. 2. Introduction: It is necessary to narrow down the specific mode of action of thymoquinone. The theoretical background that thymoquinone alone induces various anticancer mechanisms seems to be lacking in expertise. And anticancer drugs must be able to provide the target clearly. 3. The MOA for the chemotherapeutic agents introduced in Table 1, but some information was omitted in the related paragraph. For example, MOA was provided that cyclophosphamide increased the percentage of cells in G1 and sub-G1 phases in Table 1, but it did not describe in the main text. All must be supplemented. 4. Are there no studies for the anticancer effect using the xenograft mouse model? 5. The specific cell line name like MDA-MB-231 breast cancer for the indication did not specify in many paragraphs. 6. Combination antitumor effects with second and third-generation drugs have not been reviewed (eg. PD-1 and PD-L1 inhibitors, trastuzumab, gefitinib, lapatinib, or erlotinib, etc.). Is there any reason? 7. It would be desirable to provide information on cases in which clinical studies were conducted (J Pharmacopuncture. 2017 Sep; 20(3): 179–193).

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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**Professional title:** Chief Technician, Executive Vice President, Research Assistant Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Author's Country/Territory:** Lebanon

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-02-27

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ru Fan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-04-12 08:59

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-04-13 06:01

**Review time:** 21 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

All concerns have been well addressed.