

Response to reviewers

The authors greatly thank to the reviewers for the thorough review and positive comments. We have revised the research paper with the help of their suggestions and comments. The responses to the specific comments and suggestions are as follows.

1. In this study, BMSCs transfected with adenovirus-mediated human urokinase plasminogen activator (Ad-uPA) were transplanted into rats with CCl₄-induced liver fibrosis, to evaluate possible therapeutic approach for treatment of liver fibrosis. The results revealed that uPA gene apparently was capable of BMSC modification by suppressing liver fibrosis through down-regulation of Wnt signaling pathway. This well designed and executed studies with the animal model of liver fibrosis, provides clear benefits of possible “gen therapy” in treatment of liver fibrosis. In general , the report is well written and the results are supported by the experimental data.

Thank you for reviewer’s positive evaluation.

2. The section on “Methods” is missing the references. This is particularly evident under “Cell culture”, Adenovirus infection”, Detection of uPA expression”, and “Biochemical assays”.

As the reviewer said, we did not include any reference in the “Methods” section. We sincerely apologize for our negligence. Following the reviewer’s comment, it has been corrected in revised manuscript and the added references highlighted with blue font can be found in the Methods section. (On Page 10-12.)

3. There is no evidence that cell viability was assayed prior to “infection” procedure.

Thank you for pointing it out. As the reviewer said, there is no direct evidence that cell viability was assayed in our manuscript. We did not evaluate the cell viability by tetramethyl azo salt azole trace enzyme reaction colorimetry (MTT) because of limited experimental time and funds. However, survival cell count has been carried

out by light microscope prior to “infection” procedure. Moreover, fluorescent microscopy was performed to observe indirectly cell viability according to green fluorescence protein (GFP) expression and cell morphology. Therefore, we could sure that the BMSCs used in transduction had high vitality. We thank for the reviewer’s instructive comment which made us introspect about our experimental method and we will try our best to improve in the subsequent research.

We sincerely acknowledge the reviewer’s comments and suggestions, which are valuable for improving the quality of our manuscript. Should you have any questions, please contact us without hesitate.