

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS

September 20, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 00077481-review.doc, 00068413-review.doc).

**Title:** Effects of growth and migration by ginsenoside Rh2 in pancreatic cancer cells

**Author:** Xi-Ping Tang, Guo-Du Tang, Chun-Yun Fang, Zhi-Hai Liang, Lu-Yi Zhang

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 359

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated.

**Yes.**

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

**00077481-review:**

(1) Unless the first letter of a term is customarily capitalized, lower case should be used. e.g. Caspase should be caspase and Cyclin should be cyclin in many cases.

**We have revised the capitalized letter according to the suggestion.**

(2) Spacing between words should always be heeded.

**We have revised the spacing between words.**

(3) "trial group" could be more appropriately termed as "experimental group"

**We have changed "trial group" to "experimental group".**

(4) The address of the companies from which reagents are purchased should always be listed (after the name of the companies).

**We have listed the address of the companies from which reagents were purchased.**

(5) The “gray value” of the bands should be “band intensity”?

**We have change “gray value” to “band intensity”.**

(6) The numeric values in the figures (e.g. figure 1A) are not necessary and made the reading difficult. If the authors like to emphasize the actual value, they should consider using the table format rather than figures.

**We have deleted the numeric values in the figures.**

(7) The figure legends need to contain more experiment conditions and design and get rid of the numeric values there.

**We have removed the numeric values from the figure legends, and added experiment conditions and design.**

(8) Normally the title of figure legends should use sentence case instead of upper case for the beginning of each word.

**We have revised and use sentence case in the title of figure legends.**

(9) The figures are of low resolution and quality and hard to read.

**We have revised the figures in the format of Doc.**

(10) The first 12 lines of Discussion should be merged into Introduction. There is lack of discussion on how this study compares with other studies with the same compound and the limitation of the study.

**We have moved most of the first 12 lines of Discussion to Introduction and added the discussion on how this study compares with other studies with the same compound and the limitation of the study.**

(11) Introduction: need to list a few known mechanisms of Rh2 since this compound has been studied in other tumors.

**We have added some reports of a few known mechanisms of Rh2 in other tumors.**

(12) How did the authors make a 60  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{mL}$  concentration of Rh2 in the culture media when the stock solution was only 40  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{mL}$  that will require further dilution?

**We made a mistake of the unit of the working solution in the manuscript. The unit of the working solution should be  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{L}$ , and the unit of the stock solution should be  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{mL}$ .**

**00068413-review:**

(1) In Figure 1, authors evaluated the effect of R2 on cell survival using an MTT assay only. Since an MTT assay cannot well-distinguish cell survival and proliferation, to confirm Rh2 inhibition of cell proliferation, suggesting to add a cell counting assay by counting growth cells. In addition, there is not 0 h group (control group) in Figure 1B for time-course experiment.

**We have added clonogenic assay as a cell counting assay. And we redrew Figure 1B in which 0 h group was added.**

(2) All figures need further improvement, e.g. the characters or markings in various figures are much smaller or unclear. Figure legends also need further detailed expression to understand the results by seeing figure legends alone. Suggesting that the detailed statistics may be deleted in Figure legends.

**We redrew all figures and rewrote figure legends. And we deleted the detailed statistics in figure legends.**

(3) For the results of caspase-3, -9, normally caspase-3/9 defines as pro-caspase-3/9, pro-caspase-3/9 level decreases or cleaved-caspase-3/9 protein increases, the activation of caspase-3/9 is identified. In this Ms, authors obtained that caspase-3 and caspase-9 were up-regulated, is this defined as pro-caspase or cleaved-caspase? please clarify and explain. **Caspase proteins we examined are cleaved-caspase proteins. So we have added cleaved before caspase.**

(4) In result expression of Abstract section, suggest to use past tenses.

**We revised it according to the suggestion of reviewer.**

(5) In full text, "Caspase-3, Caspase-8, Caspase-9, Cyclin D1" should be changed to "caspase-3, caspase-8, caspase-9, cyclin D1".

**We have revised it.**

(6) In the first paragraph of Discussion section, "...and vivo study to possess a potent anti-tumour activity including cell growth inhibition and apoptosis induction in various tumour cells. However, there are not relevant reports about ginsenoside Rh2 with pancreatic cancer" may be changed to "...and in vivo study to possess a potent anti-tumour activity including inhibition of cell growth and induction of apoptosis in various tumour cells. However, there are not relevant reports about the effect of

ginsenoside Rh2 on pancreatic cancer” ;

**We revised it according to the suggestion of reviewer.**

(7) In the second paragraph of Discussion section, “It suggested that Rh2 could down-regulated Cyclin D1 and regulated cell cycle transition, to suppress cancer cells proliferation” may be changed to “The data suggest that Rh2 may down-regulate cyclin D1 and regulate cell cycle transition, thereby suppressing cancer cells proliferation”.

**We revised it according to the suggestion of reviewer.**

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

**Yes.**

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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