

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 62085

**Title:** Berberine retarded the growth of gastric cancer xenograft tumors by targeting hepatocyte nuclear factor 4α

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 03806663

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Egypt

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-03-01

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-07-27 11:34

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-07-28 12:42

**Review time:** 1 Day and 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<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
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

this work is interesting, but I have some comments to the authors: 1- What is the new with this research as some previous publication discusses this point e.g Berberine Attenuated Proliferation, Invasion and Migration by Targeting the AMPK/HNF4 $\alpha$ /WNT5A Pathway in Gastric Carcinoma. 2- some sentence need to be rewritten as when authors mentioned in the discussion section ( by us). 3- as regards figures, please add scale bar, annotations, magnifications, type of stain or dye.

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**Title:** Berberine retarded the growth of gastric cancer xenograft tumors by targeting hepatocyte nuclear factor 4α

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 04145167

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Research Associate

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** United States

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-03-01

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-07-28 23:28

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-08-05 04:08

**Review time:** 7 Days and 4 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the manuscript titled "Berberine retarded the growth of gastric cancer xenograft 1 tumors by targeting 2 HNF4 $\alpha$ " the authors have demonstrated that berberine inhibits the growth of tumors derived from MGC803 and SGC7901 cells. The authors have determined the expression of HNF4a, WNT5a and B-catenin from tumor tissues and liver tissues using western blot and PCR. The conclusions could have been further improved if the authors address the following comments. In vivo, berberine is known to metabolize to multiple derivatives, so it is difficult to conclude that the effect on HNF4a and WNT pathway is mediated through berberine. To address this I would suggest the authors to check the in vitro effect of berberine on MGC803 and SGC7901 cell lines. Some of the blots are not very clear. The quantified version of the blots shows error bars and std dev, indicating that blots were done in replicates. Will the authors be able to show a different representative image ? For example, Fig. 3D and 4D blots cannot be of this quality. The authors need to include the catalogue numbers of the antibodies that were utilized for western blot.