

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

August 25, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2429-review.doc).

Title: Advanced hepatocellular carcinoma responds to MK615, a compound extract from the Japanese apricot "*Prunus mume*".

Author: Takashi Hoshino, Hitoshi Takagi, Atsushi Naganuma, Eri Koitabashi, Sanae Uehara, Naomi Sakamoto, Tomohiro Kudo, Ken Sato, Satoru Kakizaki

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 2429

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

1 Format has been updated

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

Reviewer 1 (00006599)

I think this is an interesting case report that may open new space for further clinical trials.

Answer: Thank you for your comments. We intend to conduct a future clinical trial with more numbers of patients.

Reviewer 2 (02444877)

The manuscript by Hoshino et al., aims to demonstrate the clinical efficacy of MK615, against HCC. In the present study authors have used MK615, a known antitumor compound. MK615 contains triterpenoids, which are well known to suppress the growth of many cancer cell lines. The preliminary clinical trial conducted on six advanced HCC patients showed that MK165 exerts some notable effects on both lymph node and pulmonary metastasis. While the research makes a reasonable connection between the different earlier and present observations, the novelty of the work would have been much better with the support of some other important parameters. Though the study provides important preliminary findings, a number of critical issues have to be addressed before it can be considered for publication.

1. Are there any clinical studies showing the use of this compound in countering progression of tumor in early stage of HCC or any other cancer, if so, those can be included in the introduction. ?

Answer: There are no clinical studies of MK615 for early stage HCC. It is our future problems.

2. Manuscript will be strengthened if the data on vitals of the participated subjects are included.

Answer: Data on vitals of the participated subjects were added.

3. Importantly, further studies are required to demonstrate the safety and efficacy, as the dosage administered in the present study is >12 g/day.

Answer: Thank you for your suggestion. It is our future plan.

4. As the present study was conducted on a small group of six numbers of patients it would have been much better if they have included more patients and studied additional clinical endpoints.

Answer: Thank you for your suggestion. We intend to conduct a future clinical trial with more



numbers of patients.

Minor Comments

In fig 2, label line graphs with the respective patient number.

Answer: labeled.

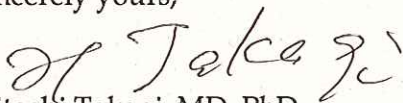
There is repetition of statements in introduction and discussion. The author should carefully go through the manuscript and correct them. Abbreviations may be explained in MS, where it appeared first.

Answer: We checked and corrected.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,



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