

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 39455

Title: Impact of sorafenib on epidural fibrosis: an immunohistochemical study

Reviewer's code: 03475479

Reviewer's country: Japan

Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji

Date sent for review: 2018-05-17

Date reviewed: 2018-05-20

Review time: 3 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Authors described the anti-fibrotic effect of sorafenib for epidural fibrosis after laminectomy. This work is interesting, but several issues remained unclear. Major 1. At six weeks after sorafenib administration, EF and CD105 expression were decreased in sorafenib-treated rats than control rats. As authors mentioned, sorafenib has multiple



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effects for various molecular targets. Therefore the effects shown in present work remained unclear how the effects are induced. Experiments should be done at various time points (i.e. after several days, after 1 or 2 weeks, and after 6 weeks). 2. The status after laminectomy, the status of surgical wound, wound healing or adverse events should be shown in detail as results. Minor 1. The data was evaluated by only one pathologist. Authors should mention its independency or reproducibility. 2. Fig.1 might be deleted. 3. Fig 2, 3 and 4 should be included in the results section with their explanation.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

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- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 39455

Title: Impact of sorafenib on epidural fibrosis: an immunohistochemical study

Reviewer's code: 01299180

Reviewer's country: United States

Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji

Date sent for review: 2018-06-06

Date reviewed: 2018-06-11

Review time: 5 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this manuscript, the authors have examined the effect of sorafenib, a multi-kinase inhibitor, on epidural fibrosis caused by laminectomy. The authors have also investigated the appropriateness of using anti-CD105 and/or anti-osteopontin immunohistochemistry as an alternative method in evaluating the degree of epidural



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fibrosis. Using 16 male rats, the authors found that topical application of sorafenib substantially prevented the development of epidural fibrosis following laminectomy. They also found that immunohistochemistry using anti-CD105 (but not anti-osteopontin) gave results that are fairly consistent with conventional staging methods in classifying epidural fibrosis. Overall, the work appears to be interesting and the results appear to be convincing. I have several specific comments. 1) For the immunohistochemistry data shown in Figs. 3 and 4, it would be very helpful to clearly indicate what constitutes a positive staining signal, and what exactly should be counted as a microvessel. 2) The labels on Fig 5 should be enlarged significantly. At the present form, it is very hard to read. The tables within this figure are also very hard to read. The fonts should be enlarged to at least 10. 3) Why male rats were chosen? It would be ideal to have same experiments done in female rats as well.

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 39455

Title: Impact of sorafenib on epidural fibrosis: an immunohistochemical study

Reviewer's code: 00698952

Reviewer's country: China

Science editor: Fang-Fang Ji

Date sent for review: 2018-06-06

Date reviewed: 2018-06-12

Review time: 5 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
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			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript is about an exploratory investigation on the use of sorafenib for preventing spinal epidural fibrosis following laminectomy in rats. The results demonstrated that sorafenib could significantly ameliorate fibrosis score, fibroblast density, inflammatory cell infiltration, and angiogenesis. There are a number of issues

regarding the writing of the manuscript: 1) The superfluous parts: a) the second and third paragraphs of the Results, which merely repeat in a long-winded way what has been succinctly written in the first paragraph and clearly shown in Table 3, should be removed; b) Figures 5A and B, which present the already clear results of Table 3 into two separate, confusing-looking bar charts, are not necessary; and c) the paragraph on the use of CD105 in Discussion should be trimmed as the use of this antibody in immunohistochemistry is not novel. 2) It is not at all clear the whereabouts of the inflammatory cells in Figures 2A and B. Replacement with multiple, better labelled photomicrographs is advised. 3) Why are the controls of Figures 3 and 4 having a darker staining background than the sorafenib-treated ones? 4) Reference is needed for He et al. of Table 3. 5) Wenting et al. should be Ma et al. 6) The English is good on the whole. There are nonetheless some typos, stylistic and grammatical errors which require more thorough editing. For example, in the sentence "Our results indicated that EF developed to various extents in all control animals, indicating that experimental EF had been successfully produced.", the "had been" should be changed to "was". There are "indicated" and "indicating" in the same sentence. Should the "indicated" be changed to "showed", for example?

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