



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 68218

**Title:** STAT3-mediated activation of mitochondrial pathway contributes to antitumor effect of dihydrotanshinone I in esophageal squamous carcinoma cells

**Reviewer's code:** 03258917

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Professor, Senior Scientist

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

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

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**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-05-21 09:18

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-05-25 21:12

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<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** bpgoffice@wjgnet.com  
**https://**www.wjgnet.com

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

This manuscript by Qi et al is quite interesting, well written, the findings are original and of relevance. The methods to achieve the objectives are numerous and well described. Minor comments: - Final concentration of DMSO employed must be appointed. - It is recommended the introduction of a control without treatment in the proliferation assay. - KYSE30 cells line needs lower concentration of DHTS to achieve the same inhibition of proliferation. Please, discuss this point. - Figure 3: A and B footnote needs improve to better understand each image. - Description of primers employed in RT - qPCR is missing. - As the convenience of GADPH as endogenous control in RT-PCR has been recently questioned (doi: 10.1002/pmic.201400577), inclusion of a second loading control gene would be desirable. Major comments: - Overall, to improve the relevance of the results obtained, it is highly recommended the inclusion of a normal epithelial cell line (for example: Het-1A) as control in the proliferation, cell cycle and apoptosis assays...