

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 79089

Title: Inhibition of bromodomain-containing protein 4 enhances the migration of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma cells by inducing cell autophagy

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02440884

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Chief Doctor, Professor, Senior Lecturer

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Germany

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-11

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-08-26 11:30

Reviewer performed review: 2022-08-26 12:11

Review time: 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 Grade E: Do not publish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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Peer-reviewer
statements**

Peer-Review: [☒] Anonymous [☐] Onymous

Conflicts-of-Interest: [☐] Yes [☒] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the experimental in vitro study the effects of bromodomain-containing protein 4 (BRD4), an epigenetic reader of chromatin-acetylated histones in tumorigenesis and development, on the migration of esophageal squamous carcinoma cells (ESCC) was investigated. The authors demonstrate data that BRD4 inhibition enhances cell migration by inducing EMT and autophagy in ESCC via the AMPK-modified pathway. Comments 1. Introduction should be shortened. 2. Results: a reduction of E-Cadherin was found after application of JQ1, an inhibitor of BRD4. In this phenomenon the authors show evidence for epithelial-mesenchymal transition. How do the authors exclude a reorganization of intercellular contacts in a epithelial cell? What about the synthesis of plaque-associated proteins and the expression of keratins? 3. Results: autophagy is addressed as important molecular mechanism: it could be of interest the type of molecules/ proteins or organelles that are addressed. 4. Results: how do the authors demonstrate that the BRD4 effects are specific for esophageal ESCC? Is there any differences between p16 expressing or non-expressing cells? 5. Discussion: specificity of BRD4 effects in ESCC should be addressed.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05750374

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PharmD, PhD

Professional title: Full Professor, Senior Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-11

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-09-15 04:39

Reviewer performed review: 2022-09-26 12:05

Review time: 11 Days and 7 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
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Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Peer-reviewer
statements**

Peer-Review: [☐] Anonymous [☒] Onymous

Conflicts-of-Interest: [☐] Yes [☒] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study to explore the effect of BRD4 on cell migration of Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) through cell line studies is very interesting. I appreciate your hard work. This work is technically sound. You have reached definite outcomes. The title reflects the main hypothesis of the manuscript. The abstract summarizes and reflects the work described in the manuscript. The keywords reflect the focus of the manuscript. A core tip has been given that justifies this article's need and is appreciable. The manuscript describes the background, present status, and significance of the study. The manuscript describes methods in adequate detail. The manuscript interprets the findings adequately and appropriately, highlighting the key points concisely, clearly, and logically. It discusses the paper's scientific significance and relevance to clinical practice sufficiently. This work has been tailored to the available literature. The figures, diagrams, and tables are sufficient, good quality, and appropriately illustrative of the paper contents. The figures are labeled properly. The manuscript appropriately cites the latest, important and authoritative references in the introduction and discussion sections. The manuscript is well, concisely, and coherently organized and presented and the style, language, and grammar are accurate and appropriate. Authors have prepared their manuscripts according to the ARRIVE guidelines. The author prepared the manuscript according to the appropriate research methods and reporting. Further studies are warranted to facilitate the discovery of new therapeutic strategies. I appreciate your work which would be greatly useful in the management of Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Chief Doctor, Professor, Senior Lecturer

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Germany

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-11

Reviewer chosen by: Han Zhang

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Reviewer performed review: 2022-10-19 06:11

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
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Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

All points are addressed. I have no further questions.