

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Stem Cells*

Manuscript NO: 81896

Title: Obesity and cancer stem cells: Roles in cancer initiation, progression and therapy resistance

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05229914

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Chairman, Chief Doctor, Director

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Thailand

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-11-28

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-01-02 02:31

Reviewer performed review: 2023-01-05 05:31

Review time: 3 Days and 3 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 Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	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

It was very rewarding for me reading your review. I had almost no comments until the last two paragraphs. Please consider my comments there. I have tried to rewrite some of it. I suggest adding a short paragraph about the newer GLP-1 and GIP/GLP-1 medications. Both the content and layout as well as the language is great.

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Manuscript NO: 81896

Title: Obesity and cancer stem cells: Roles in cancer initiation, progression and therapy resistance

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05909333

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Iran

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-11-28

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-01-10 07:32

Reviewer performed review: 2023-01-16 07:37

Review time: 6 Days

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
Novelty of this manuscript	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
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
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The review by Xie is discussing an important and novel topic, however, it seems the hypotheses which are proposed by the authors are not based on robust evidence and is only based on a few in-vitro or animal studies, or personal inferences of the authors. Nevertheless, considering the importance of the topic, I agree with the publication of the paper after the following corrections: 1- Please add a definition of "cancer stem cells" and also explain "cancer stem cells theory" in the introduction section. 2- In the "OBESITY AND CSCs IN CANCER INITIATION" section and table 1, most of the cited references are discussing high-fat diets and not obesity. Although high-fat diet can be a risk factor for obesity, it is not equal to obesity and the results of these studies should not be mixed up. 3- Some sentences repeated along the text and should be removed (e.g. "The key roles of obesity in the activation of stem cell programs have attracted much attention in recent years" 4- In many cases, the authors had a straightforward approach, and they ignored different discussions and points of view about a topic that should be corrected. Just a few examples: "obesity is always accompanied by hyperlipidemia" obesity is not always accompanied by hyperlipidemia, and many obese people are metabolically



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healthy (MHO). Or "surgical intervention does not guarantee the recovery of obese patients to a normal state and is typically a harmful method". Also, HFDs are not the only obesogenic diets and many studies show that high-carbohydrate diets are more obesogenic than HFDs and even low-carb HFDs (ketogenic diets) are widely used for weight loss. Moreover, regarding leptin and adiponectin different discussions exist. 5- It seems there are some spelling mistakes in the text and the revision of the paper is recommended (e.g. " Substantial studies have reported that obesity or HFD markedly affects the composition of the commercial microbiota, especially in the intestine").