

Dear Reviewer,

We like to thank you for your interest in our manuscript and thank you indeed for your thoughtful and constructive recommendations to improve our manuscript where we aimed to examine the influence of polo-like kinase inhibition on apoptotic mechanisms in cholangiocellular carcinoma cell lines.

We have performed additional Western blot analyses for cleaved PARP in treated KMCH-1 and Mz-Ch-1 cells after treatment with the different substances (see Figure 2). To our surprise we did not detect PARP cleavage in treated KMCH-1 cells. This result was comparable to the results that we observed in the KMCH-1 cell line regarding Bcl-2 Western blot analysis. The KMCH-1 cell line was not as susceptible to cell death and apoptosis as the Mz-Ch-1 cell line under the different treatment conditions. This result potentially underlines our conclusion that a cytotoxic effect of BI6727 and cisplatin treatment was more prominent in Mz-Ch-1 cells than in comparison to KMCH-1 cells.

As you kindly mentioned to check for protein levels of cleaved caspase 3 we also performed additional Western blots but were unfortunately not able to optimize the antibody within the given time frame to obtain acceptable and well-founded results.

Another point, which you asked for was the analysis of Bax expression at the protein level. As you can see in Figure 3, here we provide Bax expression on mRNA in panels A (KMCH-1) and D (Mz-Ch-1) and on protein levels in panels B and C for KMCH-1 and in panels E and F for Mz-Ch-1 cells.

We would like to thank you for reading our manuscript with interest and hope that you comply with the revision of our manuscript and recommend our manuscript for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Many thanks and best regards,

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