

Dear Reviewers/Editors:

We would like to thank you for the high evaluation of our manuscript and helpful suggestions. Below, we are addressing the identified problems:

**Reviewer 1:**

1. *Type of the study should be mentioned in the methodology*

The indication that this is a basic study is included now to the beginning of Materials and Methods part. (Page no 6, marked in red)

2. *Place and duration of the study should be mentioned*

We included the place of the study in Materials and Methods. These in vitro experiments were performed at University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, USA, during 3 months. (Page no 6, marked in red)

3. *What were the primary and the secondary outcomes?*

The primary outcome of this study is characterization of OCA- mediated attenuation of profibrotic activation in hepatic stellate cells (HSC) induced by internalization of HIV+ apoptotic hepatocytes. This mimic the scenario of increased hepatotoxicity in alcohol abusing people living with HIV (PLWH) and suggests that OCA might serve as a treatment of choice to prevent liver fibrosis in these patients. The secondary outcome is the identification of the mechanisms allowing OCA to achieve this goal.

4. *Program used for statistical analysis should be mentioned.*

Data were analyzed using GraphPad Prism v7.03 software (GraphPad, La Jolla, CA, United States). ( Page no 7, marked in red)

5. *What was the limitation of the study?*

The limitation of this study was that we used in vitro, but not in vivo models to test the effects of OCA. However, to infect with live HIV for in vivo studies, we should use either monkeys or humanized mice transplanted with both human hepatocytes and human immune system, which is a difficult to handle and highly expensive model. We are planning to do in vivo experiments later, as a next step of pre-clinical studies. This explanation is incorporated now in Discussion. ( Page no 11, last part of discussion, marked in red)

**Editorial Office's comments:**

**Science Editor:**

1. *According to our policy, the overall similarity index should be less than 30%, and the single-source similarity should be less than 5%. Please rephrase these repeated sentences*

Unfortunately, we did not get the text with the marked sentences needed to be re-phrased. As soon as these sentences are identified for us, we will make the changes.

Supplementary comments:

1. *The authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s).*  
Grant application form is uploaded now.
2. *The authors did not provide the original figures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor;*  
We prepared the requested PowerPoint with all figures.
3. *The authors did not write the "article highlight" section. Please write the "article highlights" section at the end of the main text.*  
We prepared "article highlight" and inserted at the end of the main text. ( Page no 12 and 13, marked in red)