Author's response to reviews

Title: Gastric cancer cell supernatant causes apoptosis and fibrosis in the peritoneal tissues and results in an environment favorable to peritoneal metastases, in vitro and in vivo

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Version: 4 Date: 11 February 2012

Dear editors and referees,

We found the referee’s comments most helpful and have revised the manuscript accordingly. Thank you for your letter and for the referee’s comments concerning our manuscript entitled "Gastric cancer cell supernatant causes apoptosis and fibrosis in the peritoneal tissues and results in an environment favorable to peritoneal metastases, in vitro and in vivo". We have studied their comments carefully and have made corrections which we hope meet with their approval. Revised portions are coloured in red.

1. The referees suggest that at least one more gastric cancer cell line should be examined for confirming the responses to soluble factors are common in gastric cancer cells. We have therefore completed a further series of experiments, the results of which are summarized in Figure 2 (take MKN45 and SGC-7901 for example). Cells treated with other gastric cancer cell lines (MKN-1, BGC-823 and MGC-803) were similar to Figure 2 (figure not shown). From these we conclude that gastric cancer cells can induce apoptosis of human peritoneal mesothelial cells.

2. The sentence “the cytotoxic effect of SF-CM” in the MTT assay, has been deleted because it is speculative. It has changed to “effects of growth suppression”, as suggested by the reviewer.

3. The order of section was revised in accordance with “Instruction for authors”.


4. We include a new set of photographs with better definition than those originally submitted in Figure 4A. Also, an arrow has been added to explain the results in Figure 2.

5. The sentences have been checked carefully and corrected following the suggestions of the referee in minor comments.

6. Conclusion was added at the end of the paper.

We greatly appreciate both your help and that of the referees concerning improvements to this paper. I hope that the revised manuscript is now suitable for publication.

Hui-mian Xu