Author's response to reviews

Title: Gene expression analysis of cell death induction by Taurolidine in different malignant cell lines

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: Manuscript: “Gene expression analysis of cell death induction by Taurodilide in different malignant cell lines” (MS: 3953780953954636)

Dear Prof. Norton,

Please find enclosed the manuscript entitled

“Gene expression analysis of cell death induction by Taurodilide in different malignant cell lines”
MS: 3953780953954636

First we would like to thank for the helpful and encouraging reviews of the above mentioned manuscript. Please find enclosed the revised manuscript which we would like to re-submit after extensive revision according to the reviewer’s comments for publication in BMC Cancer as an original research contribution (full paper). We tried to cover the reviewer’s commentaries completely.
**Point to point reply to reviewer’s report**

**Reviewer 1**

1. Title page: Weyhe S should be changed to Weyhe D  
   ➔ corrected

2. Page 7: Were the TRD concentrations used 200 or 250? Please clarify.  
   ➔ The concentration was corrected to 250µM, which was used throughout the whole study.

3. Page 11: Please change GAPD to GAPDH  
   ➔ corrected

4. Page 12: 1st paragraph: The authors should give changes compared to control. That is more illustrative.  
   ➔ We clarified on page 12, that proliferation changes after TRD treatment are given in % compared to control, which was set to 100%. We added this information on page 12 and in the legend of figure 1.

5. Page 12: 2nd paragraph. The authors should state shortly why TRD 250 and not 1000 was chosen, although they explain it later in the discussion section.  
   ➔ We added a small paragraph on page 12 with an appropriate explanation.

6. Why was proliferation tested after 8 and viability after 24h. Please explain.  
   ➔ We explained the different incubation periods for BrdU proliferation assay (8h) and FACS analysis (24h) in material and methods on page 7 (section „BrdU proliferation assay“) and page 8 (section „Flow Cytometry Analysis“).

7. Page 13: Please change „...and cell cycle“ to „...and cell cycle“  
   ➔ corrected

8. Page 13: The authors should state more clearly that the changes they refer to were changes registered in all 5 cell lines. Same applies for the legend of figure 4.  
   ➔ we tried to further clarify and emphasize this aspect in the „Results“ section and in legend of figure 4.
9. Page 14: The selection of the candidate genes should be justified by giving more information about the selected genes.

⇒ Although detailed information about the candidate genes was already provided in the „Discussion“ section, we offered more information about the target genes in the „Results“ section. We think, the reader is now able to understand the selection of candidate genes.

10. Page 18: Citations Yan and Hartmann need to be formatted.

⇒ corrected.

Reviewer 2

Minor essential revision: Although taurolidine seems to be effective in a large panel of several malignancies, there seems to be a quite distinct difference of activity level. It would be interesting if the authors could discuss this issue – the different activity levels in relation to the carcinogenesis of the several malignancies - in their discussion.

⇒ we addressed this issue in the “Discussion” section

We hope that by the introduced changes our manuscript meets the standards for publication in BMC Cancer

Sincerely, on behalf of all authors,

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