Author's response to reviews

Title: Down-regulation of the expression of CCAAT/enhancer binding protein alpha gene in cervical squamous cell carcinoma

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Version: 4 Date: 26 March 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report
Title: Down-regulation of the expression of CCAAT/enhancer binding protein alpha gene in cervical squamous cell carcinoma
Version: 3 Date: 5 March 2014
Reviewer: Hua Tang

Reviewer's report:
CCAAT/enhancer binding proteins (C/EBPs) are a family of transcription factors that regulate cellular differentiation and proliferation in a variety of tissues, and its expression are regulated by different factors, such as transcription factors, methylation and miRNAs in variety of cancers. In this study, Pan et al. Reported that C/EBPα is down-regulated in cervical cancer cells and methylation of C/EBPα promoter region may be involved in this process. The concerns:
1. The functional study of C/EBPs in cervical cancer cells should be performed in two cervical cancer cell lines.

Response: We studied the function of C/EBPα gene effect in cervical cancer using both cervical tissues from patients and HeLa cells. We showed that C/EBPα gene could inhibit cervical cancer cell proliferation in both the cervical tissues and HeLa cells.

2. It should use 5-Aza-CdR to treat cervical cancer cell lines in vitro to confirm whether 5-Aza-CdR affects the methylation of C/EBPα promoter region and C/EBPα expression.

Response: We used 47 cervical cancer tissues and 25 normal cervical tissues to analyze the promoter of C/EBPα gene methylation. We used MALDI-TOF MassARRAY method to detect CpG island methylation. So this result is correct and exact.

3. Minors: usually, using OD570 for MTT; English may need to be improved.

Response: We have detected the HeLa cells proliferation using OD570 by MTT, it can get the same results with OD490. We change MTT OD 490 into MTT OD 570 results in figure 4.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report