Reviewer's report

Title: Radioactive 125I seeds inhibit cell growth and epithelial-mesenchymal transition in human glioblastoma multiforme via a ROS-mediated signaling pathway

Version: 5 Date: 19 August 2014

Reviewer: Shen Fu

Reviewer's report:

Tian and colleagues evaluated the effect of 125I seeds on GBM cell growth and EMT, and further indicated that the GBM cell growth and EMT pathway were inhibited by 125I seeds via a ROS signaling pathway.

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  1. This manuscript seems to be lack of novelty in terms of project design. I noticed that the authors had published a very similar paper in PLoS one (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24040157“PLoS One. 2013 Sep 10;8(9):e74038), where 125I seeds was applied to the treatment of nasopharyngeal carcinoma cells. In this paper, cell growth and EMT pathway was evaluated as well. Meanwhile, the previous study has not been cited in this manuscript. The authors should talk more about what is new of this study by comparing with the previous studies.

  2. As a novel approach, 125I seed implantation showed potential success in the study of GBM, many researchers have attempted to assess the efficacy of 125I seed implants in GBM, which, however, are not fully discussed in this manuscript (For exemple: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=J+Neurosurg.+2008+Feb%3B108%282%29%3A236-42).

- Minor Essential Revisions
  1. In the 1st sentence of third paragraph of Materials and methods section, “as according to” should be “according to”.
  2. The last sentence of first paragraph of Results section should be revised.
  3. The grammar and spelling in this paper should be improved.

- Discretionary Revisions
  None.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.