Reviewer’s report

Title: Heparin (GAG-hed) inhibits LCR activity of Human Papillomavirus type 18 by decreasing AP1 binding

Version: 2 Date: 10 July 2006

Reviewer: eun hwang

Reviewer’s report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The authors probably did not understand what I and the third reviewer asked to be more specific to their description of the effect of GAG-hed on cell viability. What I pointed was that, for a possible cancer therapeutic, understanding the nature of its effect on cancer cells is a critical factor. Whether the cancer cells die of apoptosis or they just stop proliferation would be an important information that determines the treatment strategy. Therefore, I asked the authors if the chemical induces apoptotic death of HeLa cells or it just causes growth arrest. However, the authors kept using the term ‘cell viability’. What do they mean by this? By definition, cell viability should mean cell survival. Do they know that the reason why the MTT value did not increase? Was it due to the death of certain portion of cells or due to arrest in cell proliferation? I hope the authors understand how these two cases are different and how important it is to distinguish these two outcomes.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: No