Author’s response to reviews

Title: Pirfenidone inhibits TGF-beta1-induced over-expression of collagen type I and heat shock protein 47 in A549 cells

Authors:

Keiko Hisatomi (keiko_hisatomi@yahoo.co.jp)
Hiroshi Mukae (hmukae@med.uoeh-u.ac.jp)
Noriho Sakamoto (nsakamot@nagasaki-u.ac.jp)
Yuji Ishimatsu (yuji-i@nagasaki-u.ac.jp)
Tomoyuki Kakugawa (kakugawa@nagasaki-u.ac.jp)
Shintaro Hara (hara_shin123@me.com)
Hanako Fujita (hanakofu0925@yahoo.co.jp)
Seiko Nakamichi (seiko-n@nagasaki-u.ac.jp)
Hisashi Oku (hisashi.oku@shionogi.co.jp)
Yoshishige Urata (urata@net.nagasaki-u.ac.jp)
Hiroshi Kubota (hkubota@ipc.akita-u.ac.jp)
Kazuhiro Nagata (nagata@frontier.kyoto-u.ac.jp)
Shigeru Kohno (s-kohno@nagasaki-u.ac.jp)

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Dear Editor and Reviewers,

Thank you for your e-mail. We were pleased to learn of your positive evaluation of our manuscript and its potential acceptance for publication in the BMC pulmonary medicine, subject to adequate revision and responses to the reviewer’s comments.

We are grateful to the reviewer for their constructive and useful remarks. The comments helped us to identify areas in our manuscript that required modification and clarification. We also thank you for allowing us to resubmit a revised copy of the manuscript.

I hope that the revised manuscript is now acceptable for publication in the BMC pulmonary medicine.

Sincerely Yours,

Noriho Sakamoto
Second Department of Internal Medicine, Nagasaki University School of
Response to the comments of Reviewers

We thank the reviewers for the positive evaluation of our manuscript and the relevant and important comments.

Minor Comments

In figure 5 a-d, the authors showed TGF-beta1-induced overexpression of fibronectin, a mesenchymal phenotypic marker (or EMT marker). Then, how were changes of cell shapes? Please explain or discuss this point.

Response:

We agreed with the reviewer’s comment. Thus we tried to show the changes of cell shapes. TGF-beta1-stimulation induced the cells more fibroblast-like morphology and reduced their cell-cell contact. Pirfenidone partially inhibited it. Loss of epithelial marker E-cadherin mRNA caused by TGF was normalized by pirfenidone, but did not reach significance. Taken together, we considered the effect of pirfenidone for EMT was weak. We added these results in Results and Figure 6.