Author's response to reviews

Title: Alveolar epithelial cells undergo epithelial-mesenchymal transition in acute interstitial pneumonia: a case report

Authors:

Hongbo Li (lihongbo0516@sina.com)
Jinjin Zhang (jjinzhang@126.com)
Xiaodong Song (193442977@qq.com)
Tao Wang (732847359@qq.com)
Zhi Li (996818390@qq.com)
Dong Hao (715280524@qq.com)
Xiaozhi Wang (193442977@qq.com)
Qingyin Zheng (193442977@qq.com)
Cuipeing Mao (mao.cuiping@163.com)
Pan Xu (178282895@qq.com)
Changjun Lv (songxd71@163.com)

Version: 3
Date: 22 March 2014

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Questions:

Thank you for submitting your revised manuscript. However, we will need you to address the following points:

*Statistical significance shown in Figure 5 and 6, but there is no mention in the text of what statistical test was performed. This should be included in the text or in the figure legend.

Answers: Confocal images were taken with Leica TCS SPE laser scanning confocal system on a Leica DMI 4000 B inverted microscope with LAS AF software and Adobe PhotoShop CS5 for image processing.

We had added the method for statistical test in the figure legend:

Figure 5 Double positive cells for SPC and #-SMA existed in the human lung tissue

The lung sections from biopsy (5 d) and autopsy (62 d) were stained with SPC (green) and #-SMA (red) antibodies followed by incubation with fluorescent dye-tagged secondary antibodies. Hoechst was used to stain the nuclei (blue). The mean fluorescence intensity of #-SMA in each whole image was automatically quantified by Image-Pro Plus software and expressed in fluorescence units (FU) and bar graph represents the average value from three independent experiments (left). Yellow fluorescence represents fluorescence coexpression indicating that epithelial cells underwent EMT. The #-SMA+SPC+ cells and SPC+ cells were counted respectively in each whole image and bar graph represents the average value (#-SMA+SPC+/SPC+ cells) from three
independent experiments (right). P-values were calculated using two-tailed Student’s t-tests. #, P < 0.05.

Figure 6 Detection of Snai1 expression in human lung tissue

The EMT transcription factor was detected by confocal immunofluorescence microscopy. The mean fluorescence intensity of Snai1 in each whole image was automatically quantified by Image-Pro Plus software and expressed in fluorescence units (FU). Bar graph represents the average value from three independent experiments. Increased expression of Snai1 (green) was observed in the lung sections from biopsy (5 d) and autopsy (62 d). P-values were calculated using two-tailed Student’s t-tests. #, P < 0.01.

* Abstract conclusions "may be" instead of maybe

Answers: We would like to apologize for writing “may be” instead of “maybe”.

* Top of page 6 - space needed between "Epithelial-mesenchymal" and "transition" and again between "the" and "case" half way down the page.

Answers: we had added space between "Epithelial-mesenchymal" and "transition" [Epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT)] and again between "the" and "case" half way down the page (the case).