Reviewer’s report

Title: Anticancer activity of a dichloromethane fraction of Strobilanthes crispus on human breast and prostate cancer cells in vitro

Version: 2 Date: 12 May 2010

Reviewer: Seyed Hadi Mousavi

Reviewer’s report:

In this manuscript, authors have tested cytotoxic effects of fractions of dichloromethane extract isolated from of S. crispus on cancer cell lines using few cancer cell lines. They have used few methods to evaluate cytotoxic and apoptotic effects of these compounds.

Major comments:

1- They have tested the cytotoxic effects of these compounds on the cancer cell lines. Result of non-malignant cell line should be added to the result part and discussed.
2- T test is not suitable for the experiment. ANOVA should be used.
3- Figure 2 and 3 are complex and not informative. It should be presented differently such as column or ....
4- Apoptosis has been shown only by one method and in a descriptive manner.
   a- They have to use more methods such as western blot for apoptotic proteins.
   b- Annexin V and PI staining data should be presented at least in semi-quantitative.
   c- Apoptotic cells should be counted in each view and compared to each other.
5- Discussion is so poor. The aim of study has not been strongly discussed. The authors have to explain why they used ER-dependent and ER-independent breast cancer cells as well as the androgen-insensitive prostate cancer cells i.e. they have to explain the correlation between different response of cells to SC/D-F9 and ER-dependent and ER-independent.

Minor comments:

There are grammatical errors in text and #English should be improved.

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, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'