Reviewer's report

Title: Antiproliferative activity of proteins isolated from extracts of Corydalis cava tubers in human cervical carcinoma HeLa cells

Version: 1 Date: 18 August 2010

Reviewer: Wim Steelant

Reviewer's report:

1. Major compulsory revisions
An MTT or XTT assay will give you an idea on the viability of your cells when confronted with extracts. The reduction in viability as observed can be due to growth inhibition, but also to cytotoxic effects. It is therefore impossible to conclude that the observed dose-dependent effects of the extracts on the HeLa cells will come from growth inhibition using only the XTT assay. Complementary assays such as cell counting, sulphorhodamine B, or testing the effect on cell cycle will be needed to conclude whether the extracts really exert anti-proliferative activities.

2. Minor essential revisions
a. The manuscript is poorly written and makes it hard to read. The authors should rewrite the manuscript, making sure that it reads better in grammatical correct English.

b. In the ‘Statistical test’ section, the authors mention that they performed the Wilcoxon test to evaluate the differences in the adhesion and proliferation rates of cells, cultured on various collagens. However, the authors did not mention any experiments or shown data pointing to these assays.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.