Author's response to reviews

Title: The effects of Sutaehwan-Gami on menopausal symptoms induced by ovariectomy in rats

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Thank you for your command. As you mentioned above, you are right that MDA-MB-231 human breast cancer cells are ER negative. However, on the contrary, these cells have frequently been found to express both ER transcripts and only high levels of ER beta protein and responds to estradiol (Kimbro et al., 2008; Liu et al., 2008; Mak et al., 2006; Vladusic et al., 2000; Comitato et al., 2009). Moreover, when we examined the expression or phosphorylation of ERα in the MCF-7 and MDA-MB-231 cells after Sutaehwan-Gami treatment, phosphorylated form of near 66 kDa was detected in both cells, (data showed in the lower) which also increased by SG treatment (presented in figure 2). We mistook the band for ERα, which may be a non-specific band detected by the antibody. Thus, in the revised manuscript, we examined again cellular experiments of SG in the MCF-7 cells. These data are presented in the text.


**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** The effects of Sutaehwan-Gami on menopausal symptoms induced by ovariectomy in rats

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 19 June 2012

**Reviewer:** Siti Amrah Sulaiman

**Reviewer's report:**

MS ID : 1161119780715119

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Authors: Seung-bok Lee, Songhee Jeon, Sok Cheon Pak and Dong-II Kim

1. The authors should mention what the placebo used in the study.

   Answer: Physiological saline was used for placebo and we re-wrote it as saline in the text.

2. The authors did not mention the extra benefit of the modified formula compared to the original formula or comparing with previous data or report.

   Answer: Sutaehwan has been used in Korea for the treatment of abortus habitualis including fetal restlessness in the uterus but not used for the treatment of menopause symptom. Thus, although it is necessary for the comparison experiment between original formula and
modified formula, our study focused on the modified prescription by adding *Rhizoma dioscoreae* (yam) and *Carthami semen* (safflower seed) showing antiobesity and antihyperlipidemic activities to Sutaehwan, which is compared with raloxifen to develop the new therapeutic drug.

3. The name of plant species should be written in small letter.

   Answer: As suggested, all names of plant species were revised accordingly.

4. Please specify the animal strain used in the experiment.

   Answer: We corrected it as ‘Healthy Wistar strain albino female rats’.

5. Is there any specific reason for not evaluating the LDL level?

   Answer: Total cholesterol and triglyceride rather than LDL were measured.

6. In the Histological analysis, please revise ‘anterior-posterior axis of the wound’.

   Answer: we deleted it and rewrote that “tissues were dehydrated in graded ethanol, cleared in xylene, and embedded in paraffin”

7. In the Data analysis, please remove the second ‘hoc’.

   Answer: It was revised as Tukey’s *post hoc* test

8. Please describe about the placebo used in the study.

   Answer: It was answered for the question #1.

9. Is there any indication that the modified prescription Sutaehwan-Gami was better than the original Sutaehwan?

   Answer: Please refer to the answer for the question #2. Comparing with original formula is not one of aims of the study.