Author's response to reviews

Title: Antimalarial activity of plumbagin in vitro and in animal models

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Summary of Response to Reviewers' Comments

Title: Antimalarial activity of plumbagin in the in vitro and animal models
Version: 2 Date: 6 December 2013
Reviewer: Sittiporn Pattaradilokrat
Reviewer's report:
Acceptance with Minor Essential Revisions:
This is a fine piece of work, with clear descriptions of Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion. Following corrections to minor errors (listed below), this work will be qualified for acceptance as an original research article in BMC Complementary & Alternative Medicine.
Here is the list of suggested corrections:

1. Page 4 Line 47-48: “Malaria caused by Plasmodium falciparum is the most virulent and widespread infectious species” The above sentence is incorrect. Malaria is a disease, not a species. P. falciparum is a human malaria parasite.
Response: The sentence has been revised to “Plasmodium falciparum is the most virulent and widespread infectious malarial species in tropical and subtropical countries due to the resistance of the parasite to most of the available antimalarial drugs.”

2. Page 5 Line 87: “Blood stage” should be “Blood stages”
Response: This has been corrected.

3. Page 10 Line 185: “in both treated and control groups”. Which doses were the treated groups included? 100 mg/Kg only or 100, 200 and 500 mg/Kg. In the result section, the animal died after treated with single dose of 500 mg/Kg. It is likely that the drugs may cause pathologic effects to the cells, such as necrosis. Inclusion of “original images” as supplemental data would be beneficial for readers. It can show that the drugs exert no histopathologic effects on host organs. Description of cell morphology should be also provided.
Response: All dose levels (100, 200 and 500 mg/kg) produced no abnormality in both gross and histopathology of vital organs (heart, lung, liver, spleen, and kidney). This is why histopathological images were not included in the manuscript. The underlying cause of death is unclear.

4. Page 12 Line 246-247: Reference 21 was incorrectly cited. This reference never described the bioactivity of Plumbagin.
Response: The list of references has been reorganized; references 20 has been changed to 21 and 21 to 22.

5. Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being Published.
Response: The English language has been edited by the native English speaker.

Reviewer: Porntip Chavalitsheawinkoon-Petmitr
Reviewer's report:
According to the responses to all comments raised and correction was done in
the revised manuscript, the quality of the manuscript is much better and can be accepted for the publication. However some language correction is still needed.

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published.

**Response:**
The English language has been edited by the native English speaker.