Reviewer's report

Title: Growth arrest and induction of apoptotic by ethanolic extract of Alpinia galanga rhizome in human breast carcinoma cell line

Version: 3 Date: 1 August 2013

Reviewer: sediqeh jalali

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor,

Minor Essential Revisions

The present study was aimed to evaluate possible anti-cancer effect of alpinia galangal extract on the human breast cancer cells (MCF-7) and the non-malignant cells (MRC-5). The authors incubated the cells with various concentrations of galangal rhizomes extract (0, 125, 250, 500, and 750 µg/ml) for 24, 48 h and 72h. They found that the ethanolic extract of galangal rhizomes decreased cell viability in the malignant cells as a concentration- and time-dependent manner. Finally, using flow cytometry and Annexin V kit, they have established the induction of apoptosis involved in the cytotoxic effect of ethanolic extract of alpinia galanga in the MCF-7 cell line. I think the manuscript elucidate the results of a good experiment, and the design of the present study was perfect with including the positive and negative control. Therefore, in my opinion, the manuscript have the scientific merit for publication. However, before the paper is published, it should be corrected along the mentioned minor remarks.

1- There is a few spelling errors in the text and it is better that the authors read the manuscript carefully again and revised them: for example: “cell lne” (on page 5).

2- Table 1 is not necessary; I suggest that it be replaced by adding the data in the text.

3- The list of references is rather excessive. Suggest trimming down the list to key citations.

4- Symbols and abbreviations are required to be consistent throughout the manuscript.

5- Please check symbols (e.g. microlitre; degree Celsius) and subscripts in molecular formula (e.g. CO2, or CH2CL2) in the Materials and Methods and Discussion sections.

6- The discussion section is too long. Discussion needs to be shortened significantly, and it can start from the third paragraph: "Breast cancer is almost resistant,...", there is no need to give two long introductory paragraphs in Discussion.

With Regards,
Sediqeh Jalali

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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 interest to all of the above.