Author's response to reviews

Title: Immunotherapy using slow-cycling tumor cells prolonged overall survival of tumor-bearing mice

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover Letter

We would like to thank reviewers for the positive and constructive comments. A point-by-point response to the concerns and the changes are listed as follows.

1. Page 4, paragraph 1, line 1, key words: “cancer relapse; cancer stem cells; drug resistance; immunotherapy; metastasis; slow-cycling tumor cells; tumor vaccine” has been changed to “cancer relapse; drug resistance; slow-cycling tumor cells; tumor vaccine”. This modification accords to the suggestion of editor.

2. Page 19, paragraph 1, line 4-5, “(94.6% vs. 100%)” has been replaced by “(92.7±2.76 % vs. 99.1±1.27%)”, and “(13.7 vs. 40.5)” has been changed to “(13.6±0.21 vs. 38.9± 2.34)” These changes are responses to comment 1 of reviewer Yukai He.

3. Page 25, paragraph 1, line 3, “CZ, DW and WM contributed in the guidance of experiments.” has been replaced by “CZ, DW and WM carried out parts of the experiments and contributed in the guidance of experiments.” This change accords to the suggestion of editor.

4. Page 25, paragraph 1, line 4 has been changed from “YH Z and SZ read and approved the final manuscript.” to “YH Z read the manuscript and revised it for important intellectual content.” This change accords to the suggestion of editor.

5. Page 32, paragraph 1, line 3, “(*, P<0.05, T-Test)” has been added to sentence 4; “(**, P<0.01, T-Test) Error bars represent the SD” has been added to sentence 5. These modifications are responses to comment 2 of reviewer Yukai He.

6. Page 32, paragraph 2, line 8 and 9, “(**, P<0.01, T-Test)” has been added; line 10 “Error bars represent the SD” has been added. These modifications are responses to comment 2 of reviewer Yukai He.

7. Page 33, paragraph 1, line 5, “(*, P<0.05, T-Test)” has been added; line 6 “(*, P<0.05, T-Test) Error bars represent the SD” has been added. These changes are responses to comment 3 of reviewer Yukai He.

8. Page 33, paragraph 2, line 2, “(P<0.05, ANOVA) Error bars represent the SD” has
been added. Line 3, “Survival curve shows that mice treated with inactivated tCT-26 cells plus GM-CSF had longer survival than other groups.” has been changed to “Kaplan-Meier survival curve shows that mice treated with inactivated tCT-26 cells plus GM-CSF had longer survival than other groups. (P<0.01)” These changes are responses to comment 4 of reviewer Yukai He.

9. Page 34, paragraph 2, line 3, “No statistical differences were observed (T-Test).” has been added. Line7, “(*, P<0.05, **, P<0.01, T-Test) Error bars represent the SD.” has been added. These changes are responses to comment 4 of reviewer Yukai He.

10. Page 35, the statistical analysis for the data has been added to Table 1. These changes are responses to comment 1 of reviewer Yukai He.

11. Page 36, the statistical analysis for the data has been added to Table 2. These changes are responses to comment 1 of reviewer Yukai He.

12. Page 37, data in Table 3 was replaced by mean ± SD, and the statistical analysis for the data has been added. These changes are responses to comment 1 of reviewer Yukai He.

13. Figure 6A, error bars and P<0.05 have been added. Figure 6B, P<0.01 have been added according to comment 4 of reviewer Yukai He.

14. “*” which means P<0.05 has been added to Figure 7B according to comment 4 of reviewer Yukai He.