Author's response to reviews

Title: A systematic review of the pathophysiology of 5-fluorouracil-induced cardiotoxicity

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Tai Guo

Thank you very much for your e-mail of July 3, 2014, accompanied by comments to our paper entitled: “A systematic review of the pathophysiology of 5-fluorouracil-induced cardiotoxicity”. We now wish to resubmit the manuscript. The paper has been modified according to the reviewers’ and editor’s comments. Please see the point to point response below.

Point to point response to editor’s comments:

1. The authors did not make it clear that capecitabine is a prodrug, which is enzymatically converted to 5-fluorouracil in the body.
   It is now explained in the background section that capecitabine is a prodrug, which is enzymatically converted to 5-fluorouracil in tumor cells (line 76-78).

2. This group has reviewed cardiotoxicity in cancer patients treated with 5-fluorouracil or capecitabine previously (1), and it is not clear the difference between these two reviews. We have previously reviewed the incidence, manifestations and predisposing factors of 5-FU- and capecitabine-induced cardiotoxicity (1). That review focused on clinical events and included clinical studies. The present review, submitted to your journal, concerns the pathophysiology of 5-FU induced cardiotoxicity and includes experimental studies (in vitro studies, ex vivo and in vivo animal studies) and human studies investigating the pathophysiological mechanisms of 5-FU-induced cardiotoxicity. Thus the scopes of the 2 reviews are different and the studies included are not the same with except for one study.

Response to reviewer 2’s comments:

1. In the introduction part, the author only cited a single reference that is from the author’s group. The author may consider include more citations. We have inserted more references in the introduction part.

We hope you will now find the revised manuscript suitable for publication in BMC Pharmacology & Toxicology.

Yours sincerely,

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