Reviewer's report

Title: An in vitro study of the effect of 5-ALA-mediated photodynamic therapy on oral squamous cell carcinoma

Version: 2 Date: 31 Jul 2020

Reviewer's report:

Thank you very much for your efforts at revising the manuscript. The background and the literature review related to your study is now clear. Presentation of the experimental results are appropriate except that in Table-4 has columns titled I, II, III and IV which have no reference in the methodology section. To me, the methodology still remains somewhat haphazard and lacks continuity. The description still fails to achieve a logical flow. The steps in the experiment has to be clearly outlined and the flow-on effect from one step to the next in down-stream has to be maintained. The objective of describing the methodology should be clear enough for another researcher to be able to duplicate your experiment.

Page 6 - line 7 refers to an animal experimental treatment ???

Publons Reviewer Recognition. Springer Nature can send verification of this review directly to Publons (a subsidiary of Clarivate Analytics). If you would like to take advantage of this service, please click on the “Yes” option below. Your name, email address, title of the reviewed manuscript, name of the journal, and date of your review submission (the “Review Data”) will then be transmitted to Publons upon publication of the manuscript. If you have already registered at Publons, they will notify you of the receipt of this review and update your profile as per your settings and their policy. If you are not registered with Publons, you will receive an email from them asking you to register in order for them to be able to recognize your review on your new profile page. Publons may use the Review Data to generate derivative metadata for the benefit of Publons and you as a reviewer, carefully considering the sensitivity of such information. For example, Publons may verify your record as a reviewer by updating your profile published on its webservice if you have registered for such service or help editors to identify candidate reviewers. Please find the details of processing in Publons’ privacy policy https://publons.com/about/terms

Yes

Declaration of competing interests

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

**Reviewer Publication Consent.** I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0) if this manuscript is accepted for publication. Any comments that I do not wish to be included in the published report have been included as confidential comments to the editor, which will not be published. If you are not happy for us to publish this report, please contact the editorial office before completing the review. If you wish, you can include your name in your published report. Please note you must decide whether to include your name at the start of the process and confirm this decision whenever prompted. If you change your decision later, we will not be able to publish your name.

I agree to the terms of the CC-BY 4.0 license; please do not publish my name with my report. (default)

Is the study design appropriate to answer the research question (including the use of appropriate controls), and are the conclusions supported by the evidence presented?

Yes

Are the methods sufficiently described to allow the study to be repeated?

No

Is the use of statistics and treatment of uncertainties appropriate?

Yes

Is the presentation of the work clear?

No
Are the images in this manuscript (including electrophoretic gels and blots) free from apparent manipulation?

No