Reviewer’s report

Title: The synergism of Clinacanthus nutans Lindau extracts with gemcitabine: downregulation of anti-apoptotic markers in squamous pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma

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Reviewer: Eswar Shankar

Reviewer's report:

Hii et al in this manuscript have tried to assess the synergistic role of C. Nutans extracts with gemcitabine in pancreatic cancer cell lines. The work is indeed an interesting one. The authors also confirm synergism. Unfortunately the authors demonstrate a co-relative response and do not actually demonstrate a mechanism. This becomes a huge caveat. Also, the authors have not included any invivo studies to actually show that the combination is a very efficacious one. The authors have in the introduction pointed out that these extracts were found to inhibit inflammatory mediators such as p65, p38, pERK. pJNK. Why have the authors not actually connected any of these mediators to apoptosis. The authors also have not indicated if this combination could overcome resistance to gemcitabine. Overall the work seem very incomplete as it does not address an actual mechanism.

The authors have not performed any annexin V to show the % of apoptosis.

The authors do not show the extend of protein changes of pro and any apoptotic proteins.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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