Author’s response to reviews

Title: Total saponins of Bolbostemma paniculatum (Maxim.) Franquet exert antitumor activity against MDA-MB-231 human breast cancer cells via inhibiting PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editors and reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript. Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. Revised portions are marked in red in the paper. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer’s comments are as following.

Yours sincerely,
Qian Huang

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Response to Editor

Dear editor:

Thank you very much for giving us an opportunity to revise the above manuscript. We revised the paper according to your suggestions.

1. Question: What are the main bioactive class of the compounds?
   Reply: Thank you for the suggestion. Total saponins of Bolbostemma paniculatum (Maxim.) Franquet (BPTS) possess anti-tumor, anti-viral, anti-inflammatory and detoxication properties [1]. BPTS has been reported to treat different types of cancer, including cervical cancer, glioma cancer, lung cancer and so on [2-4], which make major contribution to our work to find new pharmacological effects on triple negative breast cancer.

2. Question: What is the stability of this agents?
   Reply: Thank you for pointing this out. BPTS has good stability, and BPTS has been made into injection in clinic in China [5]. Previous study showed that Tubeimoside I, remarkable agent of BPTS, has good stability, no significant difference between before and after the storage at -20°C for 1 month [6]. In this study, the main purpose is to study pharmacological effects of BPTS. In the future, we would further confirm the stability when exploring the pharmaceutics.

3. Question: A diagram with the main findings of the study will be very usefull.
   Reply: Thanks for your opinion. We have summarized a diagram as follows.

Response to reviewers

Reviewer 2
1. Question: Provide the number of cells those used in different experiments.
   Reply: Thank you for the suggestion. We have added the number of cells used in different experiments.

2. Question: The active ingredients of the extract should be identifies
   Reply: Thank you for pointing this out. We tested HPLC fingerprint of BPTS, where one remarkable chromatographic peak (Tubeimoside I) was seen with good resolution and response. According to Chinese Pharmacopoeia 2015, peak was identified by comparing retention time with Tubeimoside I. In this study, the main purpose is to study pharmacological effects of total saponins of Bolbostemma paniculatum (Maxim.) Franquet. In the future, we would further confirm the active ingredients and potential clinical uses of total saponins of Bolbostemma paniculatum (Maxim.) Franquet.
References


