



A Response to Article “Selenium-Modified Chitosan Induces HepG2 Cell Apoptosis and Differential Protein Analysis” [Letter]

Sela S Mariya¹ , Silmi Mariya², Novaria SD Panjaitan¹ 

¹Center for Biomedical Research, Research Organization for Health, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Cibinong, West Java, Indonesia; ²Primate Research Center (PRC), IPB University, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia

Correspondence: Sela S Mariya, Center for Biomedical Research, Research Organization for Health, Genomic Building, Cibinong Science Center, Jl. Raya Bogor No. 490, Cibinong, West Java, 16911, Indonesia, Email sela002@brin.go.id

Dear editor

We have read with great interest an article by Sun et al,¹ a well-written important work which studied the effect of Selenium-Modified Chitosan-induced HepG2 cell apoptosis and differential protein analysis. This study is very important as a basic analysis to develop candidate bioactive compounds has potency as anti-cancer drugs. We would like to give our perception, particularly on the data interpretation and method utilized to analyze cell apoptosis.

Firstly, we are really interested in the author's data about how the Selenium-Modified Chitosan-induced the process of programmed cell death cell via an intrinsic pathway. The inhibition effects of SMC on HepG2 cells were well provided, but the information for normal/non-cancer cells was neither presented nor available to readers to prove that the tested concentrations were not toxic to the normal/non-cancer cells and only showed the inhibition activity on the growth of cancer cells. We also found ourselves missed some information in the figures presented in the results section. Figure 2 in their recently published report showed the inhibitory effects of SMC on HepG2 cells with different concentrations (25–800 µg/mL) and time (24 h, 36 h, 48 h). However, there is a yellow red dash line appears which could confuse the readers. The meaning and detailed explanation of this dash line should be provided by writing a figure legend to the histogram to make it easier for readers to understand it. As shown in Figure 3, the morphological observation results of HepG2 cells after SMC treatments. The authors gave notes: (A) 0 h, (B) 24 h, (C) 36 h, (D) 48 h. To our knowledge, cells undergoing apoptosis show several typical morphological features, including shrinkage of the cell,² fragmentation into membrane-bound apoptotic bodies, rapid phagocytosis by neighboring cells, nuclear chromatin condensation, cytoplasmic vacuolation, and plasma membrane isolation.³ How the different morphological characteristics of shrunken apoptotic bodies of HepG2 cells in the 24 h, 36 h, and 48 h after HepG2 cell treatments with SMC was not clearly labeled in Figure 3. Our suggestion about this figure is to provide a description of the differences in morphological observation in the control, 24 h, 36 h, and 48 h after HepG2 cell treatments with SMC and the measurement or magnification could be put on each figure.

Assay of protein expression levels in this study supported the hypothesis that SMC-induced apoptosis might be mediated through the mitochondrial apoptotic pathway. However, we think that the analysis of biomarker extrinsic apoptotic pathways should be validated in this study to demonstrate that SMC actually induced apoptosis through the intrinsic pathway. In this study, it is not clear whether SMC could increase or decrease the biomarker extrinsic apoptotic pathway. The gene expression method can be performed as an alternative method to analyze all biomarkers of apoptosis, not only the extrinsic pathway but also the intrinsic pathway. Gene expression can support the data in analyzing a profile of gene regulation which has play role in the diseases such as cancer field,⁴ Alzheimer,⁵ allergy,⁶ etc. This method is also used to determine the pattern of apoptotic protein production.⁷ We hope that our inputs can be taken into consideration to increase information in future studies regarding the study of apoptosis induced by bioactive compounds.

Acknowledgments

Sun et al deserve praise for their productive work in this sector. We would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Sunarno, Dr. Huda S Darusman, and Dr Uus Saepuloh for their continuous support and valuable input during the writing of this manuscript.

Author Contributions

All authors contributed to data analysis, drafting or revising the article, have agreed on the journal to which the article will be submitted, gave final approval of the version to be published, and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Disclosure

All authors have received no financial support and have no potential conflicts of interest in this communication.

References

1. Sun S-J, Deng P, Peng C-E, Ji H-Y, Mao L-F, Peng L-Z. Selenium-modified chitosan induces HepG2 cell apoptosis and differential protein analysis. *Cancer Manag Res.* 2022;4:3335–3345. doi:10.2147/CMAR.S382546
2. Rana PS, Model MA. A reverse-osmosis model of apoptotic shrinkage. *Front Cell Dev Biol.* 2020;8:1–8. doi:10.3389/fcell.2020.588721
3. Kim KS, Cho CH, Park EK, Jung MH, Yoon KS, Park HK. AFM-detected apoptotic changes in morphology and biophysical property caused by paclitaxel in Ishikawa and HeLa cells. *PLoS One.* 2012;7(1). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0030066
4. Roszik J, Ring KL, Wani KM, et al. Gene expression analysis identifies novel targets for cervical cancer therapy. *Front Immunol.* 2018;9:1–9. doi:10.3389/fimmu.2018.02102
5. Darusman HS, Saepuloh U, Mariya SS, Sajuthi D, Schapiro SJ, Hau J. Increased expression of GAPDH in cynomolgus monkeys with spontaneous cognitive decline and amyloidopathy reminiscent of an Alzheimer's-type disease is reflected in the circulation. *Am J Primatol.* 2021;1–12. doi:10.1002/ajp.23296
6. Hao Y, Wang B, Zhao J, et al. Identification of gene biomarkers with expression profiles in patients with allergic rhinitis. *Allergy Asthma Clin Immunol.* 2022;18(1):1–15. doi:10.1186/s13223-022-00656-4
7. Laila F, Fardiaz D, Yuliana ND, Damanik MRM, Nur Annisa Dewi F. Methanol extract of *Coleus amboinicus* (Lour) exhibited antiproliferative activity and induced programmed cell death in colon cancer cell WiDr. *Int J Food Sci.* 2020;2020:9068326. doi:10.1155/2020/9068326

Dove Medical Press encourages responsible, free and frank academic debate. The content of the Cancer Management and Research 'letters to the editor' section does not necessarily represent the views of Dove Medical Press, its officers, agents, employees, related entities or the Cancer Management and Research editors. While all reasonable steps have been taken to confirm the content of each letter, Dove Medical Press accepts no liability in respect of the content of any letter, nor is it responsible for the content and accuracy of any letter to the editor.

Cancer Management and Research

Dovepress

Publish your work in this journal

Cancer Management and Research is an international, peer-reviewed open access journal focusing on cancer research and the optimal use of preventative and integrated treatment interventions to achieve improved outcomes, enhanced survival and quality of life for the cancer patient. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: <https://www.dovepress.com/cancer-management-and-research-journal>

<https://doi.org/10.2147/CMAR.S405019>