

## Peer Review File

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### Reviewer A:

1. **Comment 1:** I just want to suggest authors a further check on English spelling as minor revision.

**Reply 1:** Thanks to your suggestions, we have made further revisions to the language of the manuscript.

2. **Comment 2:** And I also suggest, as major revision, to consider the possibility to investigate the attenuation of cancer stem cell like features upon apigenin treatment. Indeed, if authors want to talk about reduction in metastatic potential they cannot limit their study to EMT and migratory ability (see Sacco A, et al SOX2 promotes a cancer stem cell-like phenotype and local spreading in oral squamous cell carcinoma. PLoS One. 2023).

**Reply 2:** Thank you for your excellent suggestion. As you mentioned, metastasis of tumor cells is closely related to tumor stem cells. It is reported apigenin exerts its inhibitory effects on cancer stem cells by suppressing the Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling pathway, down-regulating nuclear factor- $\kappa$ B protein expression, and inducing cell cycle arrest through up-regulation of p21 and cyclin-dependent kinases. To date, there is a lack of studies investigating the impact of apigenin on oral squamous cell carcinoma stem cells. In fact, we are currently conducting research on this topic and have submitted another manuscript for peer review. As this manuscript primarily focuses on the effect of apigenin on oral squamous cell carcinoma EMT, we did not initially include content related to stem cells. Nevertheless, we have incorporated relevant information into the discussion section with appropriate citations. Thanks again for your good suggestion.

**Changes in the text:** We have added the relevant contents in line 312.

### Reviewer B:

1. **Comment 1:** Figure 3e never support author's main claim that low-dose OXA induced EMT in HSC-3.

**Reply 1:** Thanks to your comments. E-cadherin is epithelial phenotype marker molecules and Vimentin is mesenchymal phenotype marker molecules. In Figure 3E, the results showed that low-dose OXA enhanced the expression of Vimentin and inhibited the expression of E-cadherin, indicating that low-dose OXA induced EMT in HSC-3.

2. **Comment 2:** Materials and methods section is not sufficiently prepared in this manuscript.

**Reply 2:** Thanks to your comments, we have supplemented the material methods section of the manuscript.

**Changes in the text:** We have added the Material Methods section, details of which are given in the lines 86, 95, 99, 123 and 135.