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Expression of concern

HSA-MIR-34A-5P ENHANCES TEMOZOLOMIDE ANTI-TUMORAL EFFECTS ON GLIOBLASTOMA: IN-SILICO AND IN-VITRO STUDY

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The editors would like to inform the readers of an unresolved concern regarding the reliability of the quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR) analysis reported in the following article:

Abdoli Shadbad M, Baghbanzadeh A, Baradaran B. hsa-miR-34a-5p enhances temozolomide anti-tumoral effects on glioblastoma: in-silico and in-vitro study. EXCLI J. 2024;23:384–400. doi:10.17179/excli2023-6404.

The editors received communications purportedly from the first author raising concerns about the stability of the reference gene used in the qRT-PCR analysis. According to this communication, the expression of the reference gene may not have been sufficiently stable across the experimental groups. Such instability could affect the normalization of gene expression measurements and, consequently, the interpretation of the corresponding results. The editors have made repeated efforts over a period of more than four months to clarify the matter, including attempts to contact the other authors, among them the corresponding and senior authors, and to obtain the underlying raw data for independent assessment. These efforts have so far been unsuccessful. The editors have also been unable to independently verify the authenticity of the initial communication or to assess the underlying technical concern.

The editors are aware that severe disruptions to electronic communications affecting the authors' institution due to the ongoing war impede communication with the authors. Accordingly, the absence of a response should not be interpreted as evidence of non-cooperation or research misconduct. In view of the information currently available, the potential impact of the reported methodological concern on the qRT-PCR results and on the conclusions of the article as a whole cannot be determined. The editors therefore consider it appropriate to inform readers

of the unresolved issue while acknowledging that neither the authenticity of the initial communication nor the underlying concern has been independently established. The editors are continuing to seek clarification and will review this notice if further information becomes available. The notice may be updated or withdrawn, or further editorial action may be taken, depending on the outcome of any subsequent assessment. This expression of concern is intended to inform readers of an unresolved question regarding the reliability of the published findings. It does not constitute a finding of research misconduct or a determination that the published results are unreliable.

The Editors
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