

# Mechanisms of OGT2115 inhibition of invasion and migration in KB oral cancer cells

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**Abstract. – OBJECTIVE:** The purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of the heparanase inhibitor OGT2115 on the tumorigenic properties of KB oral cancer cells.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:** We treated KB cells with different concentrations of OGT2115. Then proliferation, invasion, and migration were detected using different assays. Cell cycle was explored using flow cytometry.

**RESULTS:** We found that the treatment inhibited proliferation, invasion, and migration in a dose-dependent manner. OGT2115 also increased the apoptosis of KB cells and blocked cell cycle in S-phase.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Our results support the use of the heparanase inhibitor OGT2115 to inhibit several tumorigenic activities of KB oral cancer cells.

*Key Words:*

Oral cancer, Heparanase inhibitor, Apoptosis, KB cells.

## Introduction

Oral cancer is one of the most common malignant tumors and morbidity ranks 11th place among all essential tumors. The main treatment for oral cancer is surgery combined with adjuvant chemotherapy. Although numerous treatment options are available now, the survival and prognosis for oral cancer patients are low, with a five-year survival rate of only 50%<sup>4,5</sup>. It is well known that the invasion and migration ability of malignant tumors are closely related to prognosis. Therefore, it is relevant to explore not only the mechanism of tumor cell proliferation and apoptosis but also migration and invasion for understanding the pathogenesis of oral cancer and develop targeted therapies. A previous study<sup>6</sup> reported that heparanase (HPA) inhibitors like OGT2115 play an important role in regulating tumor neovascularization and the process of tumor cells moving through the extracellular matrix

(ECM). Here, we used different concentrations of OGT2115 to determine its biological impact on KB oral cancer cells.

## Materials and Methods

### Oral Cancer KB Cell Culture

KB cells were bought from Shanghai Cell Bank. RPMI 1640 medium (Gibco, Grand Island, NY, USA), transferrin (Gibco, Grand Island, NY, USA), mylicon (Gibco, Grand Island, NY, USA), and fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Feng Season, Hangzhou, China). KB cells cultured in RPMI medium, 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 2 g/L NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 1 in 5 IU/L penicillin, 100 mg/L streptomycin (all from Bio-sharp, Hefei, China). The culture was continued for 48 h at 37°C saturation humidity, and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

### MTT Test

KB cells in the logarithm growth period were transferred to 96-well plate (100  $\mu$ l, 8,000 cells), cultured in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, 37°C, and saturated humidity environment to help with cell attachment. After 24 h, culture solution was changed to a 10% newborn calf serum culture solution, 0.8, 1.6, 3.2, 6.4 mol/L OGT2115 (Tocris Bioscience, Ellisville, MO, USA) and 10  $\mu$ l (5 g/L) MTT (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) were added to each well for the last 4 h. KB cells were cultured for 24, 48, and 72 h; the supernatant was removed, and 150  $\mu$ l dimethyl sulfoxide (Bio-sharp, Hefei, China) was added in each well; then, the cells were incubated at 37°C for 30 min. An automatic quantitative graphics microplate reader (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA) was used to make readings at 570 nm.

### Cell Apoptosis Flows Cytometry FCM-test

High activity cell suspension was prepared. 10% fetal calf serum (FCS) Roswell Park Memorial Institute (RPMI)-1640 was used to adjusting the H1299 cell concentration to 5 $\times$ 10<sup>6</sup>-1 $\times$ 10<sup>7</sup>/ml.

40  $\mu\text{l}$  centrifuged cell suspension was stored in a specific McAb (5-50  $\mu\text{l}$ ) glass tube. The rabbit serum was inactivated at 4°C for 30 min and washed twice with 3 ml for each time; then, it was centrifuged at 1,000 rpm  $\times$  5 min. 50  $\mu\text{l}$  rabbit-anti-rat fluorescent marked material was treated at 4°C for 30 min, fixed after washing twice. The slides were prepared and observed with a fluorescent microscope (IX70, Olympus, Tokyo, Japan).

### Cell Cycle Test

The cells were inoculated with  $1 \times 10^5$ /well into 6-well plate; trypsin-EDTA is used for cell dissociation after culturing for 24 h. The cells were centrifuged at 400  $\times$  g and were resuspended in 300  $\mu\text{l}$  4°C pre-cooled phosphate buffered saline (PBS); the cells were mixed and 700  $\mu\text{l}$  -20°C pre-cooled ethyl-alcohol (Et-OH) was added drop by drop to fix the cells, and were stored overnight at -20°C. The cells were centrifugated and precipitated; then, were followed by washing with PBS; the supernatant was removed and re-suspended in a 500  $\mu\text{l}$  Propidium Iodide PI/RNase Staining Buffer Solution; finally, the cells were stained in a darkroom for 15 min. FACS analysis by Flow Cytometry (FCM) (BD Biosciences, Detroit, MI, USA) was used to detect the cell cycle. The data was analyzed by using Modfit LT.

### Cell Migration Test

The basement membrane material was artificially rebuilt with Matrigel (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA). Trypsin-EDTA (Gibco, Shanghai, China) was used for cell dissociation followed by centrifugation of cells. Then, the cells were resuspended in serum-free medium; the cell concentration was adjusted to  $2 \times 10^5$ /ml; 600-800  $\mu\text{l}$  serum-supplemented medium was incubated in 24-well plates and sealed in a chamber with 100-150  $\mu\text{l}$  cell suspension. After continued incubation for 12-24 hours, we removed the cells from the chamber with tweezers, we dried out the chamber liquid, rub out the upper chamber by using cotton swab; chamber is stained in 0.1% crystal violet for 15 min, then dry in air, place the chamber in 0.1% crystal violet staining solution for staining 15 min, after washing with water, take photograph and count the amount of cells to evaluate the migration situations.

### Transwell Test

Transwell Cabin (24-pore, 0.8  $\mu\text{m}$ ) (Corning, New York, NY, USA) microfiltration culture

chamber and double-chamber co-culture system were used. Cell cultivation density was 1 cell. The experiment procedures followed the standardized specifications provided by the vendor.

### Statistical Analysis

SPSS13.0 package (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA) was used for statistical analysis. We used mean  $\pm$  standard error ( $\pm$  SD) to present the data. Data analysis was performed using repetitive measurement and analysis of variance. Independent sample *t*-test was used for data evaluation.  $p < 0.05$  was regarded as standard for significant difference. Pearson method was chosen for correlation analysis.

## Results

### OGT2115 Effect on KB Cell Viability

To test the effect of heparanase inhibition on the growth of K562 cancer cells, we treated the cells with OGT2115. We used four different concentrations of OGT2115 (0.4, 0.8, 1.6, 3.2, and 6.4  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ) and determined growth for each concentration 24, 48, and 72 h later (Figure 1). The results have shown that all concentrations of OGT2115 were effective, particularly at 72 h. Treatments above 1.6  $\mu\text{g/L}$  OGT2115 showed clear differences at 24 h, with larger effects at 48 and 72 h (Figure 1). Overall, all the curves demonstrated statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ).

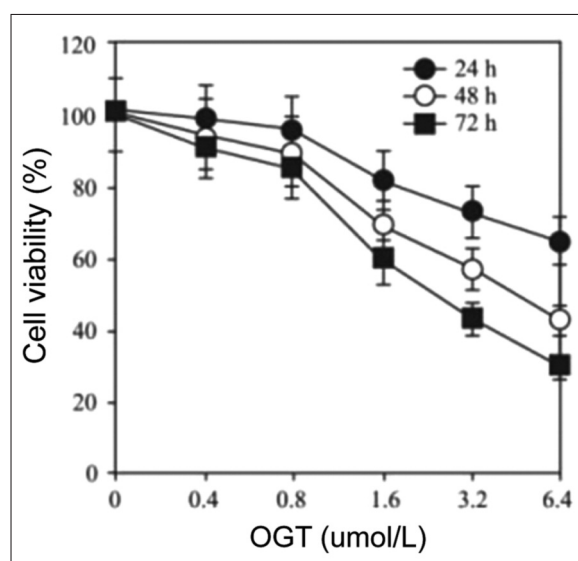


Figure 1. Effect of OGT2115 on KB cell viability.

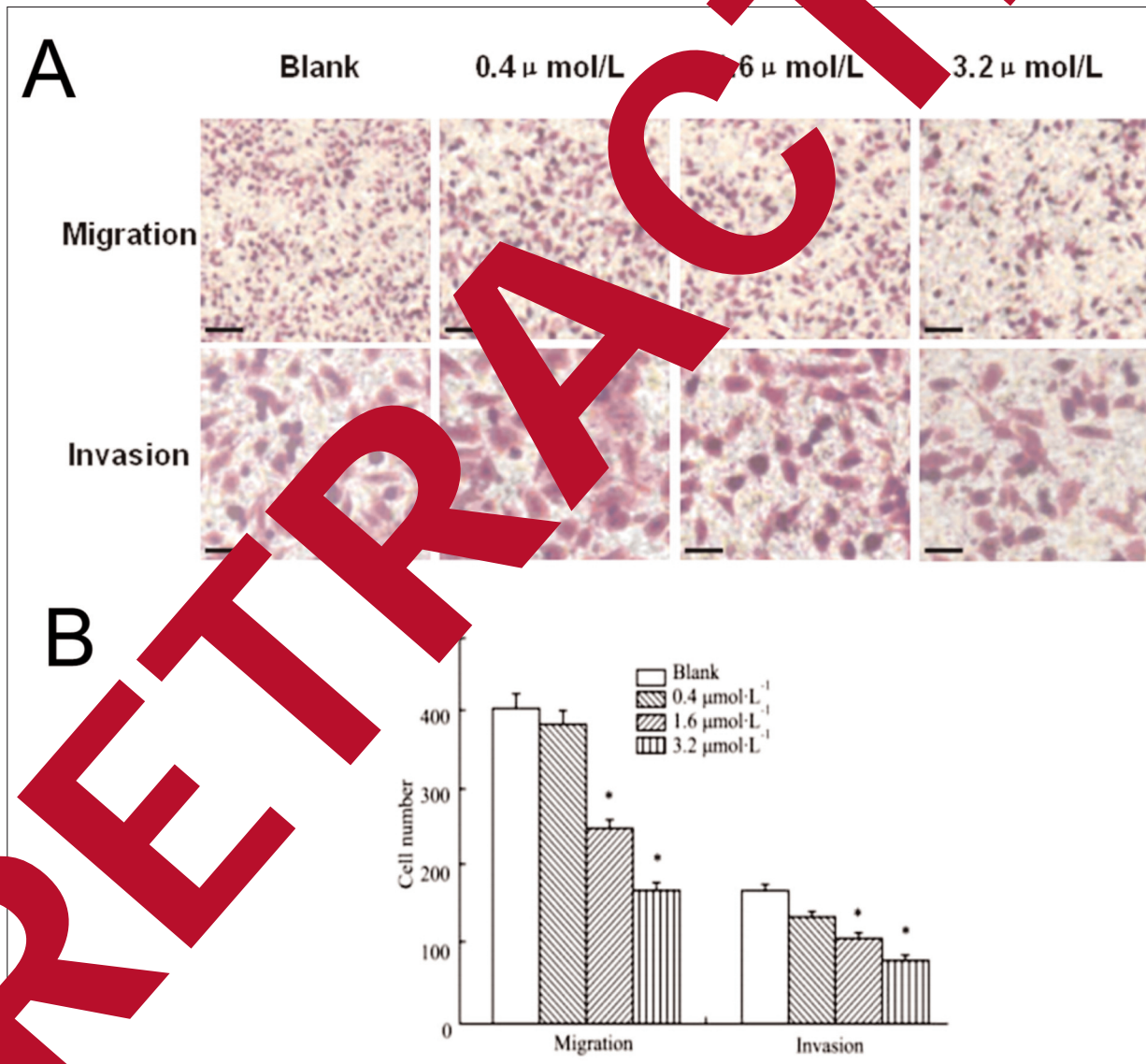
**OGT2115 Inhibits KB Cell Invasion and Migration**

Next, we used the Transwell method to analyze the effect of OGT2115 on the ability of KB cells to migrate. For this experiments, we used less than half of the IC50 concentration of OGT2115, which has little effect on cell viability. After treating KB cells with OGT2115 at 0.4, 1.6, and 3.2  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  for 24h and 48 h, we fixed and stained the slides to detect the invading and migrating cells. We photographed and counted the cells at 200X. OGT2115 at 0.4  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  had no effect on invasion and migration (Figure 2 A-B). However, OGT2115 at 1.6 and 3.2  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  re-

duced the amount of invading and migrating cells, with the 3.2  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  treatment showing the most robust effects (Figure 2 A-B). OGT2115 treatments above 1.6  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  demonstrated the effective inhibition of invasion and migration.

**Cell Apoptosis Test**

We next examined the effect of OGT2115 on cell death of KB cells. We treated KB cells with OGT2115 at 0, 0.4, 1.6, and 3.2  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  for 24 and 48 h and determined apoptosis by flow cytometry. The control treatment without OGT2115 showed no apoptotic cells (Figure 3



**Figure 2.** **A**, Invasion and migration of KB cells treated with OGT2115 for 24 and 48 h. **B**, Quantification of KB cells at 200x and 400x under the light microscopes.

A-B). The 0.4  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  OGT2115 induced apoptosis in 10% of the cell population (Figure 3 A-B), indicating that even low concentrations of OGT2115 alter the properties of KB cells. The 1.6 and 3.2  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  OGT2115 treatments induced further apoptosis, demonstrating a dose-sensitivity to OGT2115 concentration (Figure 3 A-B).

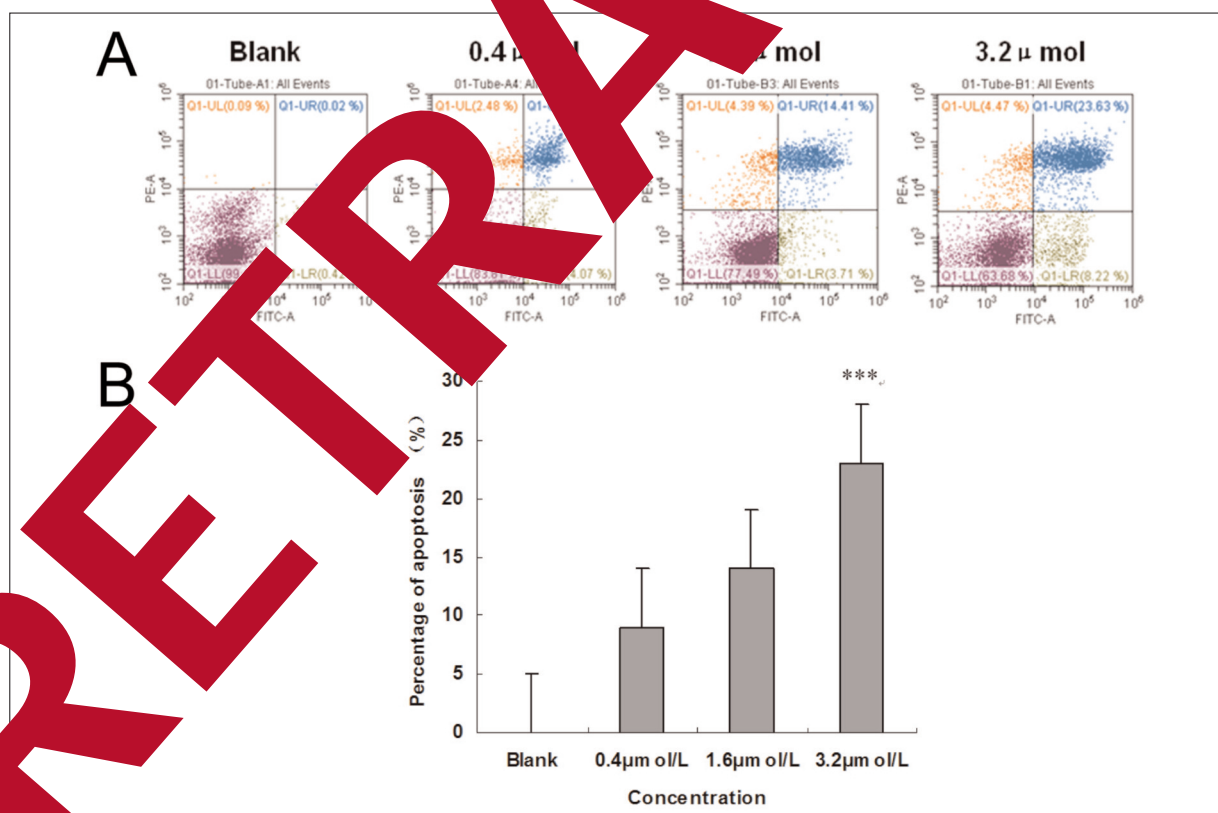
#### OGT2115 Stabilizes KB Cells in S-phase

Lastly, we examined the effect of OGT2115 on cell cycle using the same conditions as in the apoptosis experiment. The 1.6 and 3.2  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  OGT2115 treatments stabilized KB cells at S-phase and reduced the percentage of cells in G1 (Figure 4 A-B).

### Discussion

Oral cancer is one of the most common tumors of the digestive system. These cancers affect the quality of life, appearance, and psychology of patients<sup>7,8</sup>. The invasion and migration of cancer

cells is one of the important biological events and also the main cause of early death and low survival of patients. Invasion and migration of cancer cells is a complicated, multifactorial, and continuous biological process, but the molecular mechanisms regulating these events are not completely understood<sup>9-11</sup>. The invasion and migration of cancer cells can generally be divided into three main biological processes. (1) Adhesion: cancer cells need to separate from the original tissue and bind specific receptors on the surface and basement membrane. (2) Degradation: degrade the extracellular matrix by releasing matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) to breakdown the barrier that can block the invasion of tumor cell. HSPG is one of the main components to form this barrier<sup>12-14</sup>. (3) Migration: as the adhesive capacity of tumor cells decrease gradually and the surrounding matrix degrades, the binding force between the tumor cells and the surrounding matrix becomes weaker, which leads to migration of tumor cells<sup>12-14</sup>. OGT2115 is a hyaluronidase inhibitor that can inhibit the invasion and migration of tumor cells by suppressing



**Figure 3.** **A**, Percentage of KB cell apoptosis treated by OGT2115 for 48 h detected by FCM. **B**, Cell number of PE-A+FITC-A+.

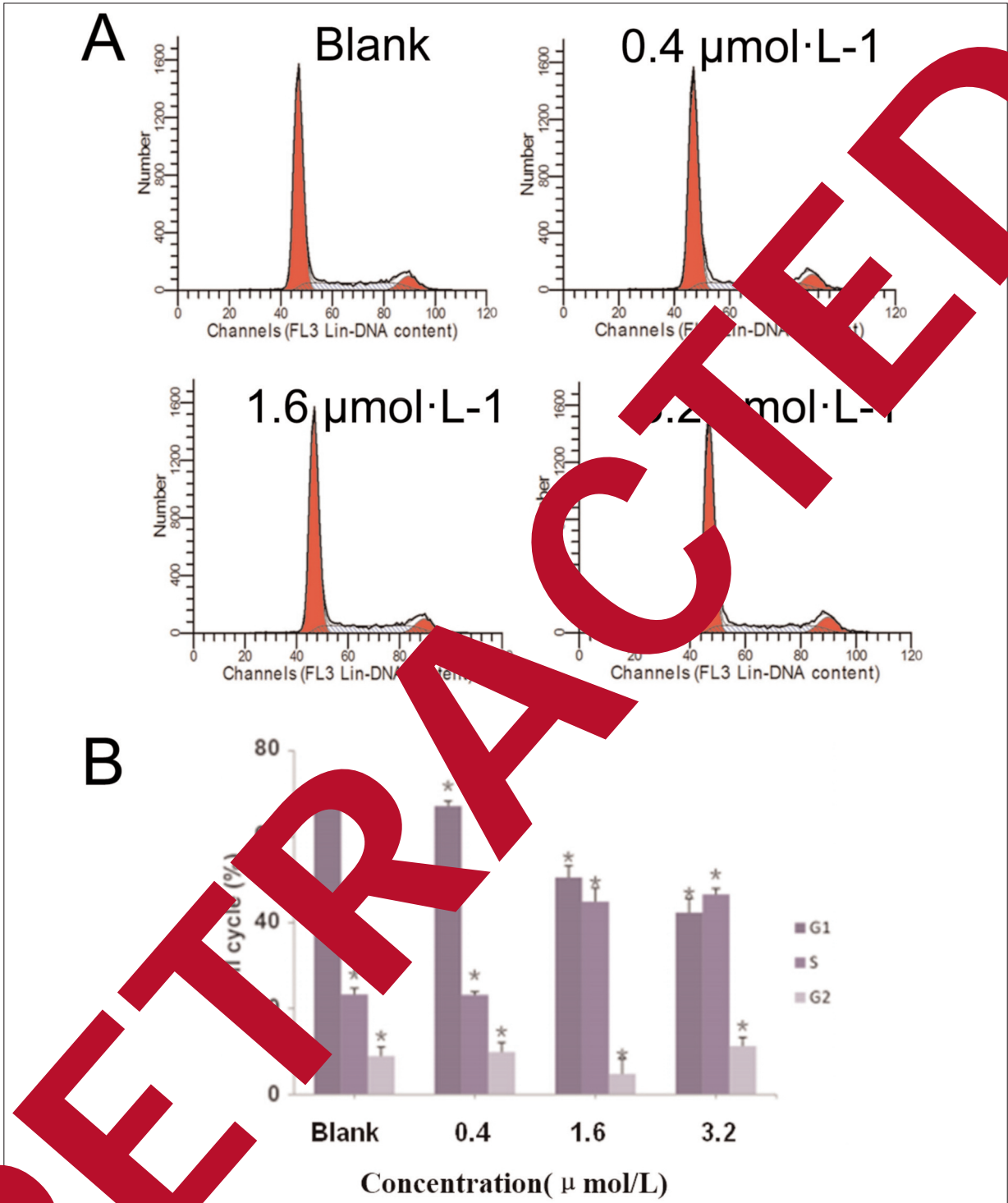


Figure 4. **A, B**, KB cell cycle detected by FCM after the treatment of OGT2115 for 48 hours.

the generation of HPA. This is due to the ability of HPA to bind with side chain locus specifically of CSPG, which can inhibit the tumor neovascularization in rat tumor tissues, can be generated in the following chain scission<sup>17-19</sup>. Our results

show that KB cell treated with OGT2115 for 48 hours presented lower cell viability, invasion, and migration in a dose-dependent manner. Moreover, OGT2115 increased apoptosis and blocked KB cells in S-phase of the cell cycle<sup>20</sup>.

## Conclusions

OGT2115 demonstrated anti-cancer activity by inducing cancer cells apoptosis and inhibiting invasion. Page MJ found that oral nucleoside analogs like OGT2115 can inhibit the invasive growth of colon cancer cells and liver cells.

## Conflict of Interest

The Authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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