

• GASTRIC CANCER •

# Effect of apoptosis on gastric adenocarcinoma cell line SGC-7901 induced by *cis*-9, *trans*-11-conjugated linoleic acid

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## Abstract

**AIM:** To determine the effect of apoptosis on gastric cancer cells (SGC-7901) induced by *cis*-9, *trans*-11-conjugated linoleic acid (c9, t11-CLA) and its possible mechanism in the inhibition of cancer cells growth.

**METHODS:** Using cell culture, flow cytometry and immunocytochemical techniques, we examined the cell growth, frequency of apoptosis and distribution of cell cycle, expression of ki67, bcl-2, Fas, and *c-myc* of SGC-7901 cells which were treated with various c9, t11-CLA concentrations (25,50,100 and 200  $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ ) of c9, t11-CLA for 24h and 48 h, with a negative control (0.1 % ethanol).

**RESULTS:** The growth of SGC-7901 cells was inhibited by c9,t11-CLA. Eight days after treatment with various concentrations of c9,t11-CLA, as mentioned above, the inhibition rates were 5.9 %, 20.2 %,75.6 % and 82.4 %, respectively. The frequency of apoptosis on SGC-7901 cells induced by different concentrations of c9, t11-CLA (except for 25  $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ , 24 h) was significantly greater than that in the negative control ( $P < 0.01$ ). To further investigate the influence of the cell cycle progression, we found that apoptosis induced by c9, t11-CLA may be involved in blocking the cell cycle of SGC-7901 cells. Immunocytochemical staining demonstrated that SGC-7901 cells preincubated in media supplemented with different c9, t11-CLA concentrations for various time periods significantly decreased the expressions of ki67 (the expression rates were 18.70-3.20 %, at 24 h and 8.10-0.20 % at 48 h, respectively), bcl-2 (4.30-0.15 % at 24 h and 8.05 %-0 at 48 h), and *c-myc* (4.85-2.20 % at 24 h and 4.75-0.30 % at 48 h) as compared with those in the controls (the expressions of ki67, bcl-2, and *c-myc* were 15.1 % at 24 h and 13.5 % at 48 h, 6.80 % at 24 h and 8.00 % at 48 h, 5.50 % at 24 h and 5.30 % at 48 h, respectively) ( $P < 0.01$ ), whereas the expressions of Fas were increased (0.60-2.75 %, 24 h and 0.45-5.95 %, 48 h).

**CONCLUSION:** The growth and proliferation of SGC-7901 cells are inhibited by c9, t11-CLA via blocking the cell cycle, pathways of bcl-2-associated mitochondria with reduced

expression of bcl-2 and Fas-associated death domain protein (FADD) with enhanced expression of Fas. But expression of *c-myc* on SGC-7901 cells is lower than that in negative control, which needs to be studied further.

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## INTRODUCTION

Conjugated linoleic acid (CLA), a derivative of a fatty acid linoleic acid (LA), is a minor fatty acid found especially in red meat and in dairy products. The biosynthesis of CLA in ruminants is the result of a rumen bacterium, which is known to convert linoleic acid to stearic acid via CLA. In recent years, CLA has received considerable attention as a chemopreventive agent. This is because CLA was shown to inhibit in vitro the proliferation of human gastric cancer cells (SGC-7901)<sup>[1,2]</sup>, mammary cancer cells (MCF-7)<sup>[3-7]</sup>, of human malignant melanoma cells, colorectal cancer cells<sup>[8]</sup>, and rat hepatoma cells<sup>[9]</sup> and in animal studies to prevent the development of mouse epidermal carcinogenesis, mouse forestomach cancer<sup>[10,11]</sup> and of rat mammary tumorigenesis<sup>[12-15]</sup>.

Although the exact mechanisms are not clear, the inhibitory effect of CLA on the proliferation of rapidly dividing cells has been attributed to the induction of cell cycle arrest<sup>[1]</sup> and the induction of apoptosis<sup>[2,16]</sup>. In many instances, growth inhibition following terminal differentiation or anticancer drug treatment results in apoptosis. Apoptosis, namely, programmed cell death, is an active and physiological process characterized by a series of morphological and biological alterations in which the cells become smaller, shrinking, the nuclei round up, the chromatin becomes agglutinated and marginated, the nuclear membrane breaks down, and followed by the degenerative changes of the cells. The exact mechanisms of apoptosis are still unclear, but our earlier studies indicated that CLA can induce apoptosis in human gastric cancer SGC-7901 cells<sup>[2]</sup>.

Gastric cancer is both common in China and the other parts of the world<sup>[17-30]</sup>, and chemoprevention is always used as the main treatment for advanced cancer so far, which has become a focus topic in this area<sup>[31-54]</sup>. In this study, we investigate the pathways of apoptosis induced by *cis*-9, *trans*-11-CLA (c9, t11-CLA) which are thought to be high in proportion and activation as potential antioxidant and anticarcinogenic agents in CLA's isomers and probe into the possible mechanism of apoptosis on human gastric adenocarcinoma cells SGC-7901.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Materials

c9, t11-CLA, a monoisomer of c-9, t11-octadecadienoic acid with 98 % purity, was obtained from Dr. Ruihai Liu (Food Science and Toxicology, Department of Food Science, Cornell

University, Ithaca, NY, USA). The c9, t11-CLA was dissolved in 96 ml·L<sup>-1</sup> ethanol, and diluted to the following concentrations: 25, 50, 100 and 200 μmol·L<sup>-1</sup>.

### Methods

**Cell culture** Human gastric adenocarcinoma cells(SGC-7901), purchased from Cancer Research Institute of Beijing (China), were cultured in RPMI 1640 (Gibco) medium, supplemented with calf serum 100 ml·L<sup>-1</sup>, penicillin (100×10<sup>3</sup>U·L<sup>-1</sup>) and streptomycin (100 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>). The pH was maintained at 7.2-7.4, by equilibration with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The temperature was kept at 37°C. The cells were sub-cultured with a mixture of Ethylenedinitrile tetraacetic acid (EDTA) and trypsin.

**Cell growth curve** The SGC-7901 cells were seeded in six 24-well plates (Nuc, Co.), each well containing 2×10<sup>4</sup> cells. After 24 h, the medium of different plates was replaced with media supplemented with c9,t11-CLA at different concentrations. On the next day, the numbers of cells of 3 wells from each plate was determined by using the trypan blue staining. The means were obtained on each of eight days and were used to draw a cellular growth curve. The inhibitory rates (IR) on the 8<sup>th</sup> day was calculated as follows:

$$IR(\%) = \frac{\text{Total number of cells in negative control (8d)} - \text{Number of cells in test groups(8d)}}{\text{Total number of cells in negative control(8d)}} \times 100\%$$

### Apoptosis detection and cell cycle analysis

SGC-7901 cells (5×10<sup>5</sup> cells in 25 ml bottles) were seeded in appropriate medium for 24 h prior to the beginning of the experiment. The medium was then replaced with different concentrations of c9, t11-CLA. After 24 h and 48 h, the cells were harvested using a mixture of trypsin/EDTA, washed twice with cold PBS, fixed in 70% ethanol on ice for 30 minutes, and washed once again. Cells were then stained by adding 1 ml of PI mixture (containing 50 μg propidium iodide, 0.2 mg RNase, 5 μL Triton X-100, and 1 mg citromalic acid) in the dark (4 °C, 30 minutes). Cell apoptosis and cell cycle analysis were subsequently performed by flow cytometry using a FACSCalibur Analyzer (BD Biosciences) with a 15-milliwatt air-cooled argon laser (excitation=488 nm). Sub G<sub>1</sub> peak was observed and DNA content in phases of cell cycle was analyzed using software of ModiFix LT.

### Cell samples

SGC-7901 cells were treated for 24 h and 48 h with various concentrations of c9, t11-CLA and collected by centrifugation. Specimens were fixed immediately in 40 g·L<sup>-1</sup> formaldehydum polymerisatum and embedded in paraffin. Gastric cancer tissue from a patient served as a reference.

### Primary antibody

To examine the expression of Ki67 cell proliferation and the expression of bcl-2, *c-myc* and Fas in SGC-7901 cells, we used four primary antibodies: corresponding rabbit polyclonal antibodies for bcl-2 and Fas and corresponding mouse monoclonal antibodies for ki67 and *c-myc*. Antibodies of bcl-2 and Fas were purchased from the Calbiochem Co. USA; and others from Zhongshan Co. China.

### Immunocytochemistry

Immunocytochemical staining was performed on serial sections at room temperature using the horseradish peroxidase method. The sections were deparaffinized in xylene and rehydrated through graded alcohol. The sections were incubated for 10 min at 95 °C in 10 mmol·L<sup>-1</sup> sodium citrate(pH 6.0) buffer for ki67

staining. Endogenous peroxidases were inactivated by immersing the sections in hydrogen peroxide for 10 min, and then were incubated for 10 min with 100 ml·L<sup>-1</sup> normal goat serum in PBS to block the non-specific binding. The sections were subsequently incubated overnight at 4 °C with relevant antibodies(1:50 dilution) respectively. The next day, the sections were incubated with biotinylated anti-mouse or anti-rabbit IgG (Zhongshan Co., China) for 30 min, followed by peroxidase-conjugated streptavidin (Zhongshan Co., China) for 30 min. The chromogenic reaction was developed with DAB (diaminobenzidine) for 10 min, and all sections were counterstained with hematoxylin. Controls consisted of omission of the primary antibody. The positive rate (PR) was calculated as follows:

$$PR(\%) = \frac{\text{Number of positive cells}}{\text{Total number (2} \times 10^4)} \times 100$$

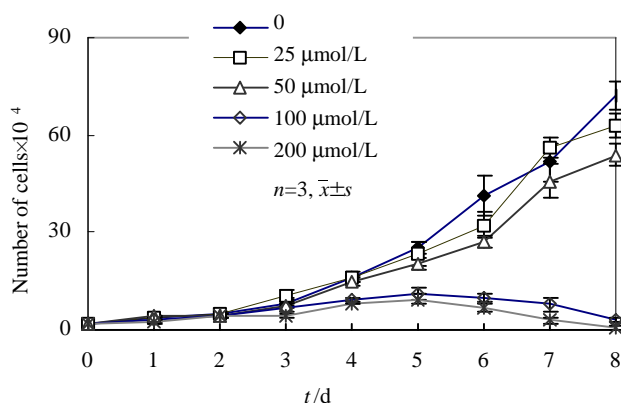
### Statistical analysis

Analysis of data was performed using the Student's *t* test or  $\chi^2$  test. A value of *P*<0.05 is considered to be statistically significant.

## RESULTS

### Effect of c9,t11-CLA on SGC-7901 cell growth

As shown in Figure 1, growth of the cells in various concentrations (except for 25 μmol·L<sup>-1</sup> and 50 μmol·L<sup>-1</sup>) of c9, t11-CLA did differ from the negative control within 8d. SGC-7901 cells incubated in 25 μmol·L<sup>-1</sup> of c9,t11-CLA grew at a higher rate than that of the negative control, while in 100 and 200 μmol·L<sup>-1</sup> concentrations of c9, t11-CLA, proliferation of SGC-7901 cell was significantly inhibited. The inhibitory rate of various c9, t11-CLA concentrations were 5.9%, 20.2%, 75.6% and 82.4%, respectively.



**Figure 1** Growth curve of SGC-7901 cells cultured in various concentrations of c9,t11-CLA

### Analysis of flow cytometry

To investigate the influence of c9, t11-CLA on apoptosis and cell cycle progression of SGC-7901 cells, we determined apoptosis and cell cycle distribution by flow cytometry. The results are shown in Table 1. We observed that apoptotic peaks and intention of the cells accumulating in the G<sub>0</sub>/G<sub>1</sub> phases and of cells decreased in the S phase of the cell cycle in SGC-7901 cells with different c9, t11-CLA concentrations at various time periods, whereas G<sub>2</sub>/M did not. The results suggested that c9, t11-CLA may induce apoptosis and arrest the progression of cell cycle of SGC-7901 cells.

### Cell proliferation

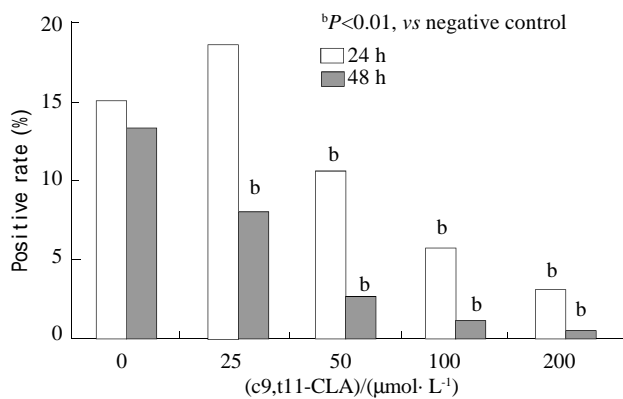
Ki67 is a marker for the proliferation of cells. To determine the

**Table 1** Cell cycle analysis of SGC-7901 cells induced by c9, t11-CLA at 24 h and 48 h ( $\bar{x}\pm s$ ,  $n=4$ )

c9,t11-CLA( $\mu\text{mol}$ )	Apoptosis		$G_0/G_1$		$G_2/M$		S	
	24 h	48 h	24 h	48 h	24 h	48 h	24 h	48 h
0	0.55 $\pm$ 0.09	0.69 $\pm$ 0.21	53.13 $\pm$ 3.44	58.57 $\pm$ 0.90	11.13 $\pm$ 2.75	12.64 $\pm$ 1.18	35.74 $\pm$ 2.04	28.80 $\pm$ 0.89
25	1.27 $\pm$ 0.73	3.89 $\pm$ 2.12	53.00 $\pm$ 8.35	56.81 $\pm$ 1.09	15.55 $\pm$ 1.11	15.95 $\pm$ 0.36	31.40 $\pm$ 9.23	26.52 $\pm$ 1.46
50	4.12 $\pm$ 0.55 <sup>a</sup>	8.18 $\pm$ 1.55 <sup>b</sup>	56.58 $\pm$ 0.87	56.32 $\pm$ 0.78	14.55 $\pm$ 3.45	15.17 $\pm$ 0.61	28.87 $\pm$ 3.32	28.51 $\pm$ 1.32
100	7.95 $\pm$ 0.31 <sup>b</sup>	12.33 $\pm$ 1.53 <sup>b</sup>	58.35 $\pm$ 2.44	61.18 $\pm$ 4.94	13.12 $\pm$ 1.50	14.49 $\pm$ 3.10	28.52 $\pm$ 0.96	25.08 $\pm$ 2.85
200	12.79 $\pm$ 3.12 <sup>b</sup>	14.75 $\pm$ 5.97 <sup>b</sup>	60.67 $\pm$ 4.28 <sup>a</sup>	63.82 $\pm$ 7.84 <sup>a</sup>	12.95 $\pm$ 4.48	13.35 $\pm$ 3.91	26.38 $\pm$ 0.92 <sup>b</sup>	22.82 $\pm$ 4.63 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> $P<0.05$ , <sup>b</sup> $P<0.01$  vs negative control

effect of c9, t11-CLA on the proliferation of SGC-7901 cells, we investigated the expression of ki67 using immunocytochemistry. The results are shown in Figure 2. Expression rates of ki67 (Figure 3A) on SGC-7901 cells gradually decreased after SGC-7901 cells were incubated with different concentrations of c9,t11-CLA at various time periods. Moreover, SGC-7901 cells expressed significantly less ki67 than did the negative control ( $P<0.01$ ). The expression rate of ki67 on SGC-7901 cells displayed a dose-response relationship as the concentrations of CLA increased.

**Figure 2** Expression of ki67 on SGC-7901 cells treated with c9, t11-CLA

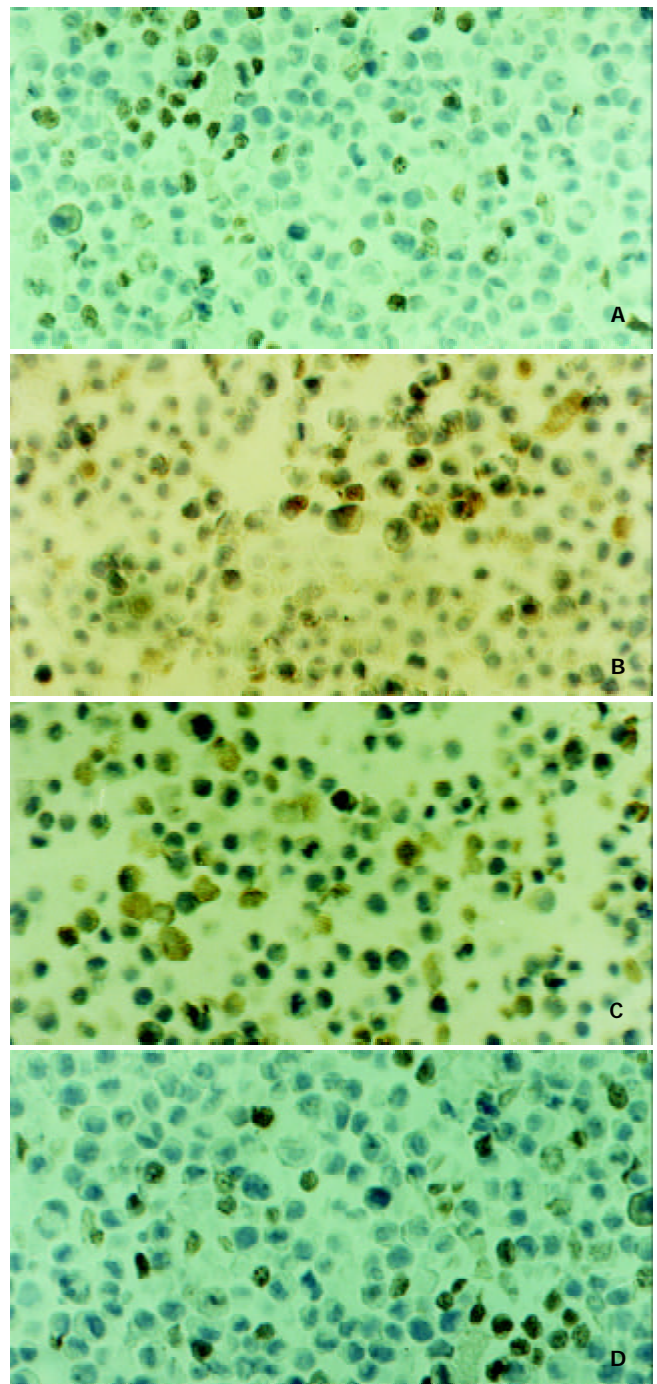
#### Expressions of bcl-2, Fas and c-myc

We detected the expression of bcl-2, Fas, and c-myc on SGC-7901 cells treated by various concentrations of c9, t11-CLA with immunocytochemical technique. The expression rates of bcl-2 and c-myc (Figure 3B, 3D) on SGC-7901 cells was decreased (Table 2) after SGC-7901 cells were incubated with different concentrations of c9, t11-CLA for 24 h and 48 h while expression of Fas increased (Table 2; Figure 3C). In the meantime, there was no expression of Fas at doses of c9,t11-CLA (25 and 50  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  at 24 h).

**Table 2** Positive rates of bcl-2, Fas and c-myc on SGC-7901 cells treated with c9, t11-CLA (%)

C9,t11-CLA ( $\mu\text{mol/L}$ )	24 h			48 h		
	bcl-2	Fas	c-myc	bcl-2	Fas	c-myc
0	6.80	0.60	5.50	8.00	0.45	5.30
25	4.30	0	4.85	8.05	0.85	4.75
50	2.50 <sup>b</sup>	0	4.20 <sup>a</sup>	3.80 <sup>b</sup>	2.75 <sup>b</sup>	3.70 <sup>a</sup>
100	1.45 <sup>b</sup>	1.95 <sup>b</sup>	3.80 <sup>a</sup>	0.30 <sup>b</sup>	4.10 <sup>b</sup>	1.35 <sup>b</sup>
200	0.15 <sup>b</sup>	2.75 <sup>b</sup>	2.20 <sup>b</sup>	0	5.95 <sup>b</sup>	0.30 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> $P<0.05$ , <sup>b</sup> $P<0.01$  vs negative control.

**Figure 3** A: The expression of Ki67 on SGC-7901 cells of the negative control. Immunocytochemistry staining SP method, original magnification,  $\times 400$ ; B: The expression of bcl-2 on

SGC-7901 cells of the negative control. Immunocytochemistry staining SP method, original magnification,  $\times 400$ ; C: The expression of Fas on SGC-7901 cells of c9, t11-CLA group (200  $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$  48 h). Immunocytochemistry staining SP method, original magnification,  $\times 400$ ; D: The expression of *c-myc* on SGC-7901 cells of the negative control. Immunocytochemistry staining SP method, original magnification,  $\times 400$

## DISCUSSION

CLA is a natural fatty acid in animal's food. CLA has a mixture of positional (9/11 or 10/12 double bonds) and geometric (various *cis/trans* combinations) isomers of linoleic acid (LA) formed by rumen and colonic bacteria. There are eight potential isomers of CLA, but the *cis* 9, *trans* 11 and *trans* 9, *cis* 11 isomers are thought to be active as potential antioxidant and anticarcinogenic agents. Therefore, it is of interest to investigate extensively the mechanism of anticancer activities of CLA.

Over the past ten years, a number of animal experiments have supported the observation that CLA is an effective chemopreventive agent for cancer, and that it can inhibit carcinogenesis of different tissues at various stages of induction by chemical agents<sup>[14,15]</sup>. Several investigators in our group have reported that c9, t11-CLA is an effective agent to prevent carcinogenesis<sup>[10,11]</sup> and cancer<sup>[1-3,7]</sup>. Zhu's study<sup>[10]</sup> demonstrated that c9, t11-CLA could significantly inhibit the mice forestomach neoplasia induced by B(a)P (50 mg·kg<sup>-1</sup>) in post-initiation in short term (23 weeks). The incidences of tumors in mice of B(a)P group, B(a)P with high dose CLA (5  $\mu\text{L} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ) group and B(a)P with low dose CLA (2.5  $\mu\text{L} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ ) group were 100 %, 60 % and 69 %, respectively ( $P < 0.05$ ). Xue's study<sup>[10]</sup> also indicated that the incidence of neoplasm in mouse forestomach in the B(a)P group, 75 % pure c9, t11-CLA group, 98 % pure c9, t11-CLA group and 98 % pure t10, c12-CLA group were 100.0 %, 75.0 %, 69.2 % and 53.8 %, respectively. This may be due to an inhibiting mitogen of activated protein kinase (MAPK)- an approach to reduce carcinogenesis.

The data in this series suggested that c9,t11-CLA could inhibit the proliferation of cancer cells, i.e. SGC-7901 cells<sup>[1,2]</sup> and MCF-7 cells<sup>[3,7]</sup>, and induced cancer cell (SGC-7901) apoptosis<sup>[2]</sup>. Liu's study<sup>[1]</sup> indicated that cell growth and proliferation and DNA synthesis of SGC-7901 cells were inhibited and SGC-7901 cells preincubated in media supplemented with different c9,t11-CLA concentrations at various time periods significantly decreased the expressions of PCNA (the expression rates were 7.2-3.0 %, at 24 h and 9.1-0.9 % at 48 h, respectively), Cyclin A (11.0-2.3 %, at 24 h and 8.5-0.5 %, at 48 h), B<sub>1</sub> (4.8-1.8 % at 24 h and 5.5-0.6 % at 48 h) and D<sub>1</sub> (3.6-1.4 % at 24 h and 3.7 %-0 at 48 h) as compared with those in the negative controls (the expressions of PCNA, cyclin A, B<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>1</sub> were 6.5 % at 24 h and 9.0 % at 48 h, 4.2 % at 24 h and 5.1 % at 48 h, 9.5 % at 24 h and 6.0 % at 48 h, respectively) ( $P < 0.01$ ), whereas the expressions of p16<sup>ink4a</sup> and p21<sup>cip/waf1</sup>, cyclin-dependent kinases inhibitors (CDKI) were increased. Our results showed that the proliferation marker Ki67 was inhibited and the cells were accumulating in the G<sub>0</sub>/G<sub>1</sub> phase and cells decreasing in the S phases of the cell cycle on SGC-7901 cells with different c9, t11-CLA concentrations at various time periods, whereas G<sub>2</sub>/M did not have. All these results suggested that c9, t11-CLA may arrest the progression of cell cycle of SGC-7901 cells. Our previous works<sup>[2]</sup> indicated that at the early stage morphological changes of cell apoptosis were observed using fluorescent dye (Hoechst 33342) under electronic microscope and SGC-7901 cells preincubated in media supplemented with different c9, t11-CLA concentrations

at various times significantly decreased the expressions of mutant p53 as compared with those in the negative control. The inhibitory rates of mutant p53 on SGC-7901 cells induced by various c9,t11-CLA concentrations (25-200  $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ ) were -19.2 %, 13.7 %, 53.4 %, and 89.0 % at 24 h and 1.8 %, 29.1 %, 87.3 %, and 86.8 % at 48 h, respectively. p53 is one of the major factors controlling cell proliferation, suppressing both growth and transformation of cells. A common idea<sup>[55]</sup> is that p53 acts as "guardian of the genome" by preventing damaging of DNA in cell proliferation or DNA damage leads to an increase in the level of p53, resulting in p21<sup>CIP1/WAF1</sup>-mediated cell cycle arrest in the G<sub>1</sub> phase, which persists until DNA repair is completed or by arresting the cell division cycle induces damaged-cell apoptosis. In the absence of functional wild-type p53, the "guardian" function is lost; cells accumulate genetic damage and show marked genetic instability, often to the extent of gross aneuploidy. However, wild-type p53 protein has a very short half-time, many point mutants have a greatly enhanced stability, allowing for the immunohistochemical detection of mutant p53 in clinical material. Mutant p53 protein loses its biochemical functions which may facilitate DNA repair as well as apoptosis, and displayed over-proliferation of cancer cells. In addition, Natalie *et al*<sup>[56]</sup> found that a fraction of p53 protein localizes to mitochondria at the onset of p53-dependent apoptosis. The accumulation of p53 to mitochondria is rapid (within 1 h after p53 activation) and precedes changes in mitochondrial membrane potential, cytochrome c release, and procaspase-3 activation. Overexpression of anti-apoptotic bcl-2 inhibits signal-mediated mitochondrial p53 accumulation and apoptosis but not cell cycle arrest. Our results showed that c9, t11-CLA may reduce the expression of mutant p53 protein and may recover the bio-function of wild p53 protein that blocks the cell cycle of SGC-7901 cells by p21<sup>CIP1/WAF1</sup> and processes to another apoptotic pathway of mitochondria by bcl-2.

At the same time, we investigated further the expressions of bcl-2 and Fas from pathways of cell apoptosis such as mitochondria and Fas-associated death domain (FADD) as well as expression of *c-myc* on SGC-7901 cells treated with various concentrations of c9,t11-CLA. Bcl-2 is an inhibitor of apoptosis and shown to exert anti-apoptotic activity by one of the following mechanisms<sup>[57]</sup>: 1) sequestration of the proforms of two major initiator caspases, pro-caspase-9 (through binding to Apaf-1) and pro-caspase-8 (through unidentified molecules); 2) inhibition of apoptogenic mitochondrial changes, including cytochrome c release and the mitochondrial membrane potential ( $\Delta \Psi$ ) loss resulting in AIF (apoptosis-inducing factor) release, as demonstrated using isolated mitochondria bearing endogenous bcl-2 and recombinant forms of these proteins, and 3) Inhibition of accumulation of p53 in mitochondrial membrane<sup>[56]</sup>. Fas is a potent inducer of apoptosis in tumor cells but not in normal cells. Fas/CD95 requires ligand receptor (FasL/CD95L) which binds to FasL and via downstream signaling molecules FADD activates caspase-8. Fas binding to FasL can activate two routes downstream of caspase-8 activation<sup>[58]</sup>: type I apoptosis signaling: direct activation of effector's caspases by caspase-8; type II apoptosis (inhibition of bcl-2 overexpression): cleavage of proapoptotic members of bcl-2 family,  $\Delta \Psi$ , release of cytochrome c and activation of caspase-9. The present study indicated that expression of bcl-2 protein decreased and expression of Fas increased on SGC-7901 cells induced by c9, t11-CLA as compared with that in negative control. c9, t11-CLA may induce apoptosis via pathways of bcl-2-associated mitochondria, p53-associated cell cycle and FADD on SGC-7901 cells. The relationship among p53, bcl-2 and Fas is still

unclear in the effect of apoptosis on SGC-7901 cells induced by c9,t11-CLA. The *c-myc* oncogene product (*c-myc*) is a transcription factor that dimerizes with Max and recognized E-box sequence, and it plays key functions in cell proliferation, differentiation and apoptosis<sup>[59]</sup>. *C-myc* expression can not only promotes proliferation but also induce or sensitize cells to apoptosis. Overexpression of *c-myc* under the circumstances that this gene is usually down regulated such as serum deprivation, results in apoptotic cells in nonhepatic cells and in a hepatoma cell line<sup>[60]</sup>. But our result showed that expression of *c-myc* with 10 % calf serum was lowered with c9, t11-CLA in SGC-7901 cells. We have not known the reason why expression of *c-myc* on SGC-7901 cells is lower than that in negative control, and this needs further studies.

In conclusion, c9, t11-CLA may inhibit proliferation and induce apoptosis by decreasing in the expression of ki67, bcl-2 and increasing that of Fas in SGC-7901 cells. This result suggested that the inhibition effect of c9, t11-CLA on SGC-7901 cell proliferation is related to the pathways of bcl-2-associated mitochondria, p53-associated cell cycle and FADD on SGC-7901 cells. In the meantime, we found that expression of *c-myc* was lowered, but we do not know its action how to regulate apoptotic progression in SGC-7901 cells. The apoptotic mechanism of c9, t11-CLA in SGC-7901 cells awaits further studies.

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