Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for RSC Advances.

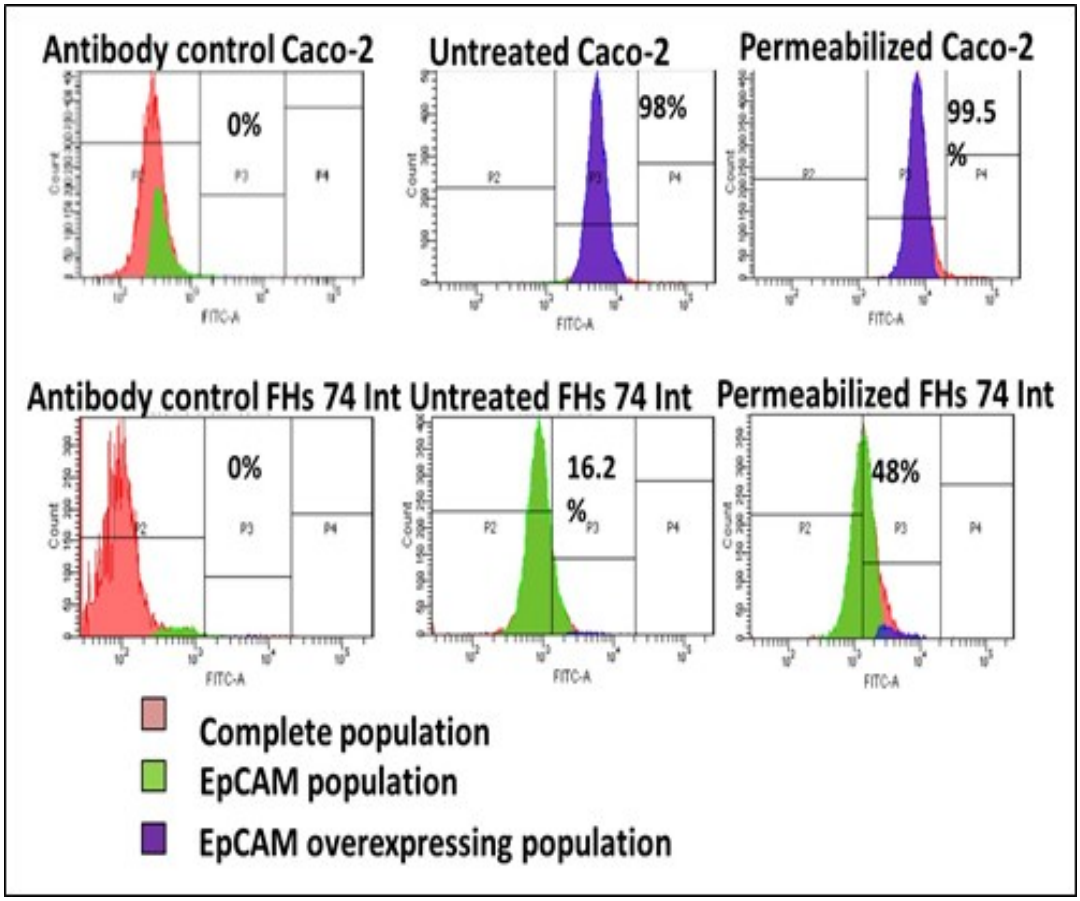

Figure S1: EpCAM as major target in cancer therapy: The flow cytometric analysis revealed that majority of Caco-2 cells (97%) expressed EpCAM. There was no significant change in EpCAM expression (96%) upon permeabilization of cells. The healthy gut epithelial cells (FHs-74-Int) showed ominously less expression (6.4 fold, $p \leq 0.005$) of EpCAM (15%). However, upon permeabilization the EpCAM expression (48%) showed a significant increase (3.2 fold, $p \leq 0.005$) when compared to non-permeabilized cells.

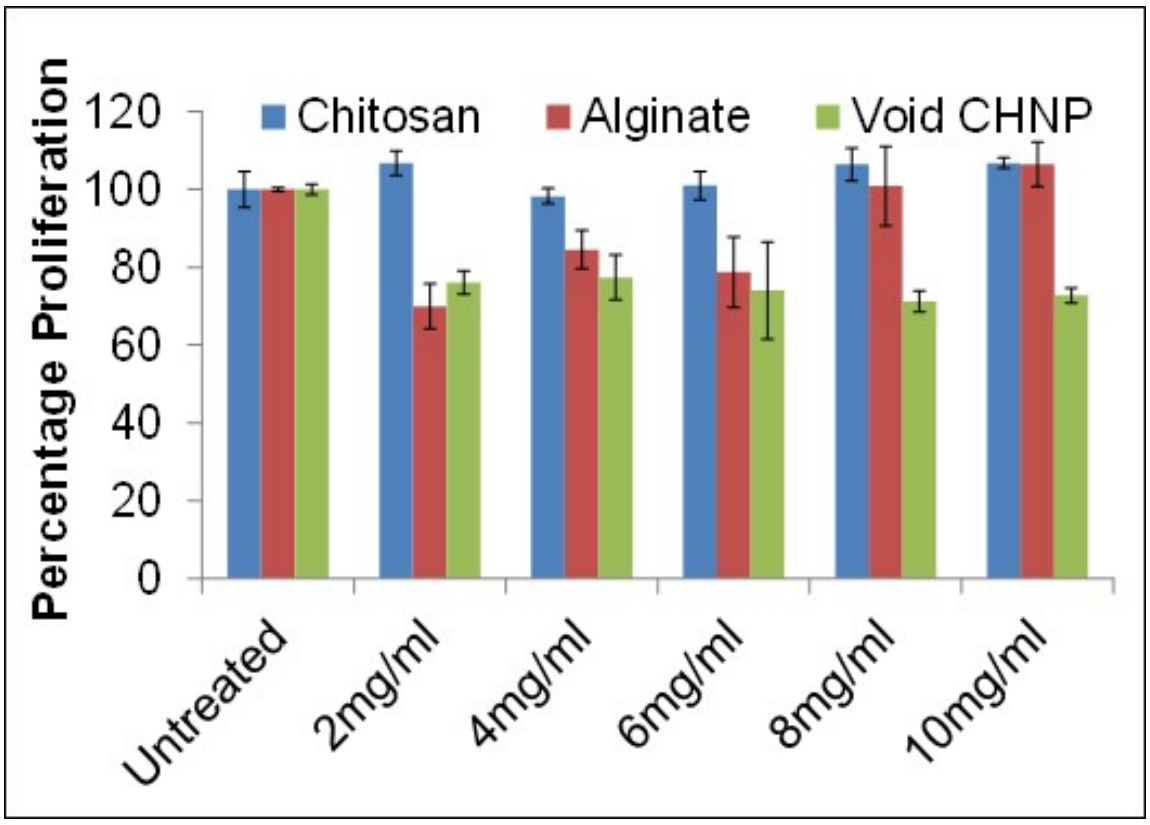

Figure S2. Non-cytotoxic nature of alginate and chitosan: The effect of chitosan, alginate and void chitosan nanoparticles on cell proliferation of Caco-2 cells was determined. Low molecular weight chitosan led to an increase in proliferation in nearly all the concentrations whereas low concentrations of alginate (2-6 mg/ml) were able to marginally lower the proliferative ability of Caco-2 cells. Higher concentrations of alginate (8 and 10 mg/ml) on the other hand led to an increase in the proliferative ability of Caco-2 cells. Not much variation in the Caco-2 proliferation could be seen in all the concentrations of void NCs (2-10 mg/ml), showing their limited ability to induce any significant cell death.