

1 *Supporting information for manuscript*

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4 **Cervical Cancer Long-term G₁ Cell Cycle Arrest Induced by Co-Immobilized TNF- α**
5 **Plus IFN- γ Polymeric Drugs**

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Additional Experimental Section

2 Dead cells analysis

3 The cells were grown in RPMI 1640 medium (Gibco BRL) with 10% fetal calf serum,
4 supplemented with 0.03 µg/ml penicillin and 0.05 µg/ml streptomycin. Fluorescein diacetate
5 (FDA) was dissolved in acetone solution up to a concentration of 5 mg/ml in 4 °C, and the
6 final concentration was 1mg/ml. Also, propidium iodide (PI) was dissolved in PBS solution
7 up to a concentration of 1mg/ml in 4 °C, and the final concentration was 10 µg/ml. Then 0.1
8 ml FDA and 0.1 ml PI were placed in cell samples for 10 min. After that, the cell samples
9 were cleaned five minutes for three times. Then cells were observed with fluorescence
10 microscope. Living cells are in green and dead cells are in red.

11

12 Cell cycle analysis

13 First, the cells were seeded at 1×10^5 cells/ml into 24-well polystyrene culture plate with
14 serum-free medium and induced by adding the nature TNF- α plus IFN- γ , and co-immobilized
15 them on PSt or NPs to a final concentration of 200 ng/well and 20 ng/well. After stimulated
16 by the TNF- α plus IFN- γ for 24 h, 72 h and 144 h, respectively, these cells were washed three
17 times using phosphate-buffer saline (PBS), and then harvested and fixed in ice-cold 70%
18 ethanol for 12 h. Subsequently, the cells were then stained with primary and secondary
19 antibodies, and one- or two-dimensional flow cytometry (FCM) was performed. they were re-
20 suspended in PBS containing propidium iodide and RNase A, and analyzed by FCM. Data
21 were analyzed using Cell Quest, FlowJo and Modfit software.

22

23 Western blotting analysis

24 HeLa, SiHa or CaSki cells were lysed in extraction buffer (10 mM Tris (pH7.4), 150 mM
25 NaCl, 1%Triton x-100, 5 mM EDTA (pH8.0)). Protein samples were separated by SDS-
26 PAGE (12%) and electro-transferred onto NC (nitrocellulose) membrane (Beijing Zhongshan
27 Golden Biotechnology Co., China). The expression of proteins was analyzed using antibodies
28 to p21, p-p21, p27, p-p27, p53, Bax, Bcl-2, p57, GADD45A, RBL2, RB1, CDK2, CDK4,
29 CDK6, cyclinD, cyclinE, E2F-1, and pRB (Beijing Zhongshan Golden Biotechnology Co.,

1 China). The blots were incubated with appropriate secondary antibodies conjugated to
2 alkaline phosphatase (ALP) peroxidase (Wuhan Boster Biological Technology Co., China)
3 and developed using ALP reagent (Beyotime Institute of Biotechnology, China). The protein
4 levels were normalized by re-probing the blots with antibody to β -actin (Wuhan Boster
5 Biological Technology Co., China).

6

7 **Immunohistochemistry analysis**

8 HeLa cells or tumor samples were collected into an Eppendorf tube of 1.5 ml and put in
9 10% neutral buffered formalin for 12 h. Then they were stained with eosin for 1 min. Three
10 micrometer-thick sections were cut onto positive-charged slides and used for
11 immunohistochemical detection of p27, p21 or Ki67. Briefly, after the deparaffinization in
12 xylene and rehydration through graded alcohols, these sections were microwaved in 0.01 M
13 citrate buffer (pH 6.0) for 15 min. Endogenous peroxidase activity was blocked by immersion
14 in 0.03% H₂O₂ with methyl alcohol for 15 min, where 10% normal rabbit (for mouse primary
15 antibodies) or goat serum (for rabbit primary antibodies) was utilized to avoid non-specific
16 reaction. These sections were then incubated using the primary antibodies for 2-3 h. After
17 washing with PBS, biotinylated anti-mouse or rabbit IgG was applied for 20 min at room
18 temperature. The peroxidase-conjugated-streptavidin solution was subsequently applied for
19 30 min and visualized using 0.05% 3'-3' diaminobenzidine (DAB). The counterstaining was
20 performed using hematoxylin. The breast cancer cell known to be positive for p27 or p21
21 over-expression was used as a positive control. For a negative control, the primary antibody
22 was replaced by a nonspecific negative control antibody.

23

24 **Immunofluorescence analysis**

25 Cells were washed twice with PBS, fixed with 10% paraformaldehyde for 20 min at
26 room temperature, and permeabilized using 1% Triton-X 100 for 15 min and blocked with
27 PBS containing 1% BSA and 10% cattle serum for 30 mins. Subsequently, they were
28 incubated with appropriately diluted antibodies to p27, p21 (Beijing Zhongshan Golden
29 Biotechnology Co; China) overnight, washed and incubated with corresponding secondary
30 antibodies labeled with cyanine 3 (CY3) for 1 h. Finally, they were washed with PBS, stained

1 with 4,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) (0.5 µg/ml) and viewed under fluorescence
2 microscopy. The controls are comprised of cells processed without primary antibody.

3

4 **Real-time fluorescent quantitative PCR analysis**

5 The relative level of p27, p21, or p57 mRNA in HeLa, SiHa or CaSki cells was
6 examined by quantitative RT-PCR (SYBR Green) (ABI 3900, High-Throughput DNA/RNA
7 Synthesizer; ABI 9700, PCR instrument; ABI 7500, fluorescent quantitative PCR instrument;
8 Applied Biosystems, USA). The cells were treated by co-immobilized or free TNF- α plus
9 IFN- γ for 24, 72, or 144 hours.

10 First, the following primers of p27, p21, or p57 designed with Primer Express 2.0
11 Software were used for the PCR step: (1) p27, p21, p57 sense, 5'-AGA AGC ACT GCA
12 GAG ACA TGG A-3', 5'-GGC GGG CTG CAT CCA-3', 5'-GCG CGG CGA TCA AGA A-
13 3'; (2) antisense, 5'-CAC CTC TTG CCA CTC GTA CTT G-3', 5'-AGT GGT GTC TCG
14 GTG ACA AAG TC-3', 5'-GAC ATC GCC CGA CGA CTT-3'; (3) β -actin sense, 5'-GCA
15 TGG GTC AGA AGG ATT CCT-3'; and (4) antisense, 5'-TCG TCC CAG TTG GTG ACG
16 AT-3'.

17 Second, the cells were placed into 1.5 ml Eppendorf tubes, adding TRIzol (Invitrogen
18 Corporation) 1 ml and chloroform 0.2 ml, followed by shaking with force for 15 s, incubating
19 (25 °C) for 3 min, centrifuging (4°C, 12000 r/min) for 15 min, and then taking on supernatant
20 to the new 1.5 ml Eppendorf tubes, increasing isopropanol in the same volume of the
21 supernatant. Subsequently, the samples were incubated for 10min at 25 °C and centrifuged
22 (12000 r/min) for 10 min at 4 °C. Then 75% ethanol (including DEPC (diethylpyrocarbonate)
23 water) was performed to wash the precipitate (at least 1.0 ml 75% ethanol/ml TRIzol), and
24 centrifuged (4 °C 7500 r/min) for 5 min. Finally, the disposable ethanol was precipitated with
25 air-drying for 5-10 min (not completely dry), and DEPC treated water was added to dissolve
26 RNA, followed by preserving at -80 °C.

27 Third, 4 µl RNA was performed to reverse-transcribe using ABI 9700 PCR instrument.
28 The reaction condition was 1h at 37 °C, and then 3 min at 95 °C. Last, the p27, p21 gene
29 transcription were amplified in 40 cycles, each consisting of 30 s at 93 °C for denaturation, 45
30 s at 55 °C for annealing, and 45 s at 72 °C for extension, followed by an extension for 5 min at

1 72 °C.

2

3 **Co-immunoprecipitation (Co-IP) analysis**

4 Total proteins were extracted from HeLa and HeLa p57 shRNA cells in an extraction
5 buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5-8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 1% NP-40, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate,
6 0.1%SDS, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM sodium orthovanadate, 50 mM sodium fluoride, 1 mM PMSF,
7 containing protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche)). Proteins extracts were inoculated with
8 antibody for 4 h, and then protein A beads were added. After incubation, overnight at 4 °C,
9 the beads were centrifuged and washed four times with a wash buffer (PBS, pH 7.4). The
10 immunoprecipitated proteins were detected by SDS-PAGE gel separately with Cyclin E and
11 Cyclin D1 antibody. Endogenous CDK2, CDK4 or CDK6 protein was detected with a rabbit
12 polyclonal anti-CDK2, anti-CDK4 or anti-CDK6 antibody after immunoprecipitation with
13 Cyclin E or Cyclin D1 antibody.

14

15 **RNAi**

16 Viral vectors are designed and constructed by Shanghai Jikai Gene Company. Then the
17 RNAi lentiviral was added into the HeLa cells in logarithmic growth phase, making the slow
18 virus to infect the HeLa cells. The relative nonspecific shRNA was set up as control group for
19 each sample. After 8 hours' co-culture, the serum medium was added into the cultured cells,
20 then after 3-4 days, infection efficiency was checked through GFP protein expression. 6-7
21 days later, interference efficiency was detected by RT-PCR and immunoblotting analysis.

22

23 **Chips**

24 After HeLa and HeLa p27 shRNA cells induced by the free and immobilized TNF- α plus
25 IFN- γ for 24, 72, 144 hours, 0.25% trypsin (W/V) was performed to digest the HeLa and
26 HeLa p27 shRNA cells. Then the HeLa and HeLa p27 shRNA cells were centrifuged by 4 °C,
27 1000 r/min for 5-10 min. The HeLa and HeLa p27 shRNA cells were collected and added 3
28 ml pre-cooling 4 °C PBS (-) to rinse the precipitation for two times, then centrifuged by 4 °C,
29 1000r/min for 5min. After detaching the supernatant, RNA Extraction Kit was added, stored
30 in -80 °C for sending samples to Beijing BoAo biotechnology limited company for microarray

1 experiments.

2

3 **Serological detection**

4 We used the sterilized scissors to take blood samples from the tails of tumor-bearing
5 nude mice treated by intravenous injection of three groups every other day. Before this
6 procedure, a hair dryer blowing was used for tumor-bearing nude mice to get the blood
7 circulation faster. For each animal, 1.5 ml blood was obtained and preserved in EP tube
8 adding anticoagulants. When blood taking was completed, all the samples were sent to
9 Guangdong laboratory animals monitoring institute (Guangzhou, China), to carry out the
10 serum detection including the white blood cells (WBC), blood platelets (PLT), and red blood
11 cells (RBC).

12

13 **Prussian blue staining**

14 Paraffin embedded tissue was placed in water. Hydrochloric acid and potassium
15 ferrocyanide solution in 15:1 volume mixing ratios was freshly prepared and used to be
16 working solution. Sections were immersed in working solution for standing 10–30 min. After
17 the reaction, sections were immersed in distilled water for 3min and 3 times, and then rinsed
18 thoroughly. Nuclear fast red solution was dropped in, covering the specimen for 5–10 min.
19 After the reaction, sections were immersed in distilled water for 3 min and 3 times. And then
20 sections were immersed in 95% alcohol and xylene to dehydrate for 2 min. The mounting
21 medium was dropped onto the sections and covered with coverslip.

Additional Results

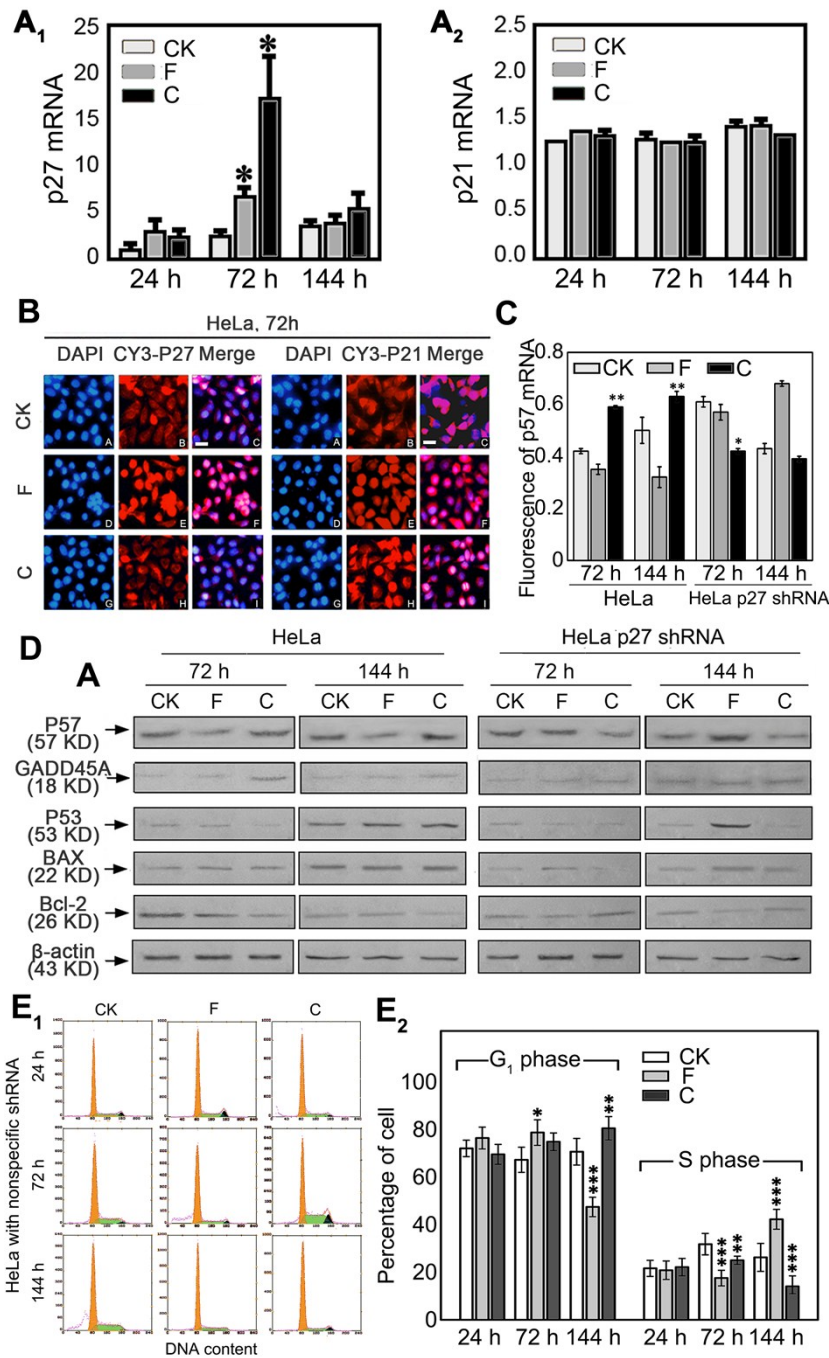
1. IFN- γ . Long-term cell cycle arrest and Bcl-2 family protein expression after p27 silencing.

Next, we investigated the p27 and p21 mRNA levels; the data are plotted in Figure S1A. A remarkable enhancement of the p27 mRNA level was observed in the C-group at 72 h and 144 h, with the maximal reached at 72 h. However, no such enhancement was observed in the F-group. A further determination of the levels and locations of p21 and p27 in the C- and F-groups was then necessary, in order to examine their roles in the G₁ arrest. In this case, the cells were stained with either an antibody that recognizes nuclear and cytoplasmic p21, or with a p27 antibody, followed by a secondary antibody with cyanine 3(Cy3). The expression of p21/p27 is depicted as red fluorescence. DAPI was used for nuclear staining (blue). As expected, in the C-group, p21 appears inside the nucleus (Figure S1B), while p27 mainly exists in the cytoplasm, indicating that the up-regulation of p21 may be one reason for the HeLa cell cycle G₁ arrest.

The expression of CDKI proteins in the HeLap27shRNA cells and the immunoblotted data are plotted in Figure S1D. Since the key proteins that modulate the apoptotic responses of p53, Bax, and Bcl-2, are sensitive to drug mediation, remarkable change was expected in the p53, Bax, and Bcl-2 levels in the C-group, after sufficient culture. The obtained data clearly indicate the remarkable down-regulation of p53 and Bax expression in this group. Nevertheless, an up-regulation of Bcl-2 expression was also detected. These results differ from those of the F-group. In parallel, the regulation behaviors of p53, Bax, and Bcl-2 expressions in the F- and C-groups with HeLa cells were similar, although p53 expression in the C-group became slowly up-regulated after being cultured for 72 h (Figure 2).

In order to avoid the unnecessary interruption from the shRNAi while p27 or p57 being silenced, a nonspecific shRNA was employed during our experiments. The results in Figure S1E indicate that the tendency of HeLa cells treated with this nonspecific shRNA is similar to the one of the original HeLa cells in Figure 2A, namely there are no influence occurring because of this shRNA.

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Figure S1. The expression of p27 and p21 was regulated, and cell cycle G₁ long arrest was induced by co-immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ . (A) Measured mRNA expression data of p27 (A₁) or p21 (A₂) real-time fluorescent quantitative PCR analysis for HeLa cells treated with free and co-immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ for 24 h, 72 h, and 144 h, respectively. (B) shows the protein subcellular redistribution data of p27 or p21 (white bars: 10 μ m) by immunofluorescence for HeLa cells. (C) Measured mRNA expression data of p57 by real-time fluorescent quantitative PCR analysis for HeLa cells. (D) Measured protein expression data of p57, GADD45A, p53, Bax and Bcl-2, by western blotting for HeLa and HeLa p27 shRNA cells. (E₁) Measured cell cycle data of HeLa cells treated with a nonspecific shRNA by flow cytometry. (E₂) Evaluated cell percentages in the G₁ and S phase of cell cycle for the corresponding treatments.

1 **2. p27 secondhand regulation role analysis and GADD45A is the other key factor.**

2 Moreover, the gene chip data provided critical information on the top 15 coincident
3 points, from which the direct reason for the long-term HeLa cell cycle arrest at G₁ may be
4 clearly identified. Of particular interest among these coincident points is p57 (CDKN1C). The
5 role of the p57 (CDKN1C) in the C- and F-groups was evaluated by analyzing the
6 immunoblotting and RT-PCR data, as shown in Figure S1C. We examined the p57 mRNA
7 levels in the C-group, cultured for 72 h and 144 h, as shown in Figure S1C. The p57 gene
8 expression was up-regulated with increasing expression directly correlating to increased
9 culture time. In the meantime, the p57 protein expression of the two C-groups with wild type
10 and silent p27, cultured for 72 h and 144 h, are plotted in Figure S1D. In contrast to the two
11 F-groups with wild type and silent p27, the cultured C-group with wild type p27 clearly
12 displayed an up-regulation of p57 expression, which was down-regulated in the C-group with
13 silent p27. This suggests that p57 is down-stream of p27 (Figure 3E). In addition, p57
14 expression was up-regulated in the F-group with silenced p27, indicating that p57 and p27
15 may play similar roles in the regulation of the cell cycle, but in different pathways.

16 The gene chip analysis also revealed another suspicious gene, GADD45A, which is
17 down-stream of p27, as shown in Figure S1. GADD45A may play a similar regulatory role as
18 p57. We investigated GADD45A protein expression in the two C-groups with wild type and
19 silenced p27, cultured for 72 h and 144 h, as shown in Figure 2. A remarkable up-regulation
20 of GADD45A gene expression was identified, differing from the observations of the F-group
21 with wild type p27. In the C-group with silenced p27, however, GADD45A protein
22 expression was down-regulated. Therefore, we suggest that both p57 and GADD45A are key
23 factors for the observed long-term cell cycle arrest, down-stream from p27.

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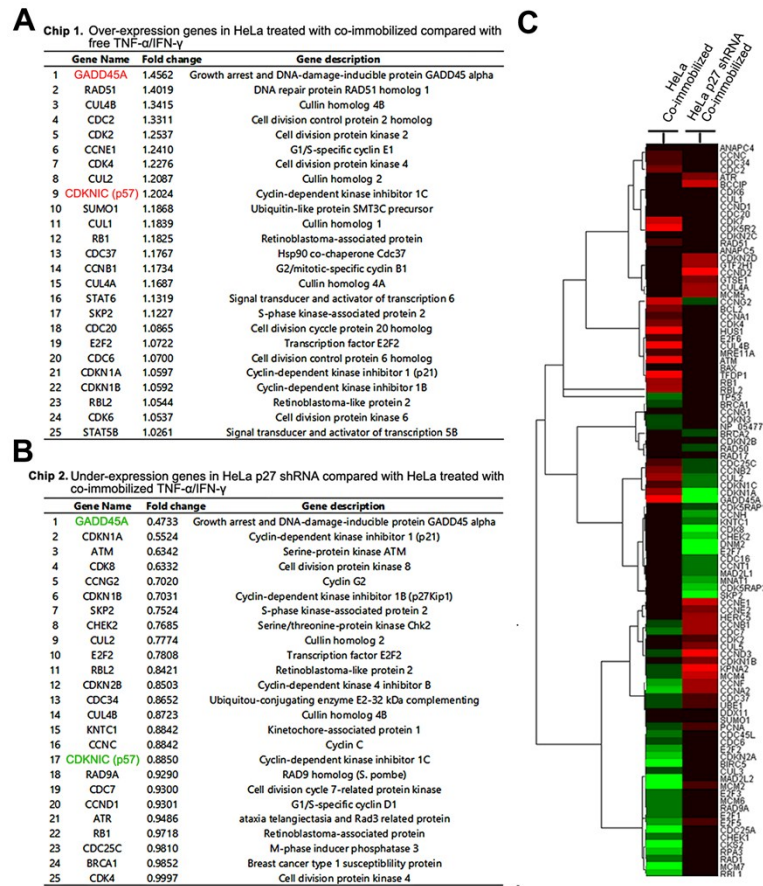
25 **3. Microarray analysis of HeLa and HeLa p27 shRNA cells for cell cycle genes**

26 The data presented above allow a clear indication that the HeLa cells in the C-group
27 exhibit quite different behaviors from those in the other two groups. This stimulates us to go
28 into the subsequent cell biology level. As seen, the p27 in the C-group mainly appears in the
29 cytoplasm and the regulation of the p27 seems to be the important reason for the HeLa cell
30 cycle G₁ long arrest. Unfortunately, this mechanism is indirect and an exploration of the direct

1 mechanism is challenging.

2 We then employ the gene chip technique to figure out the cell cycle progression
 3 regulation. We may compare the gene chip spectra from the two C-groups with the wild and
 4 silent p27 respectively. The data are summarized in Figure S2-S3, where the detailed analysis
 5 is presented in Figure S2A and B, and the clustering figures of the two chips are given in
 6 Figure S2C. These evaluated data include the top 25 up-regulated genes in the C-group with
 7 wild p27 and the top 25 down-regulated genes in the C-group with silent p27, as well as the
 8 top 15 coincident points which are up-regulated in the C-group with wild p27 and down-
 9 regulated in the C-group with silent p27.

10



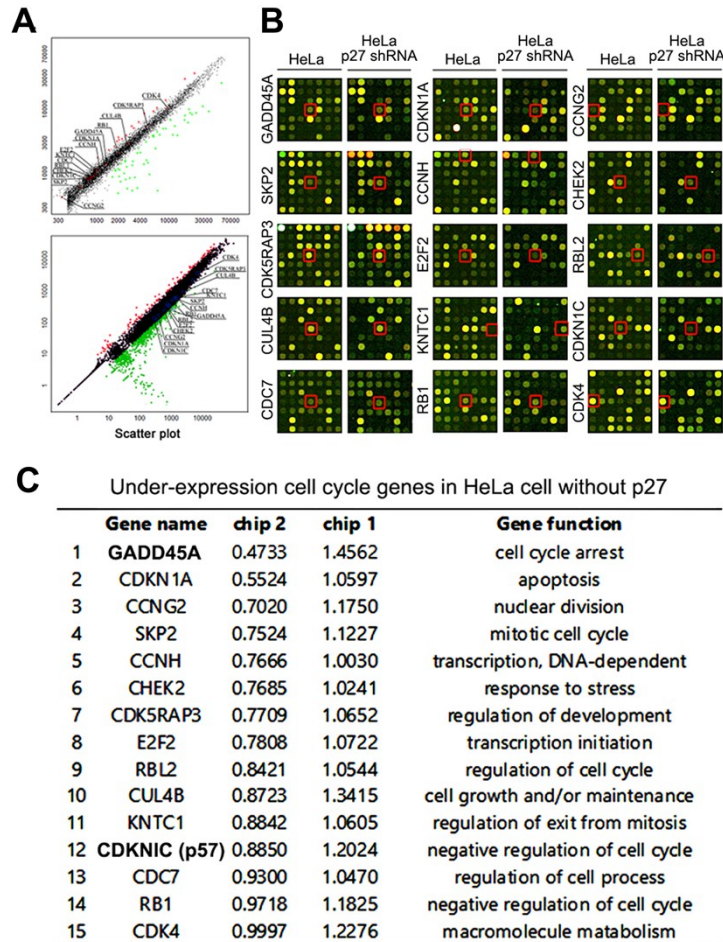
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13 **Figure S2.** Microarray analysis of HeLa and HeLa p27 shRNA cells for cell cycle genes. (A) the over-
 14 expressed 25 genes in HeLa treated with co-immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ compared with free TNF- α
 15 plus IFN- γ ; (B) the under-expressed 25 genes in HeLa treated with co-immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ
 16 compared with free TNF- α plus IFN- γ ; (C) the gene dendrograms.

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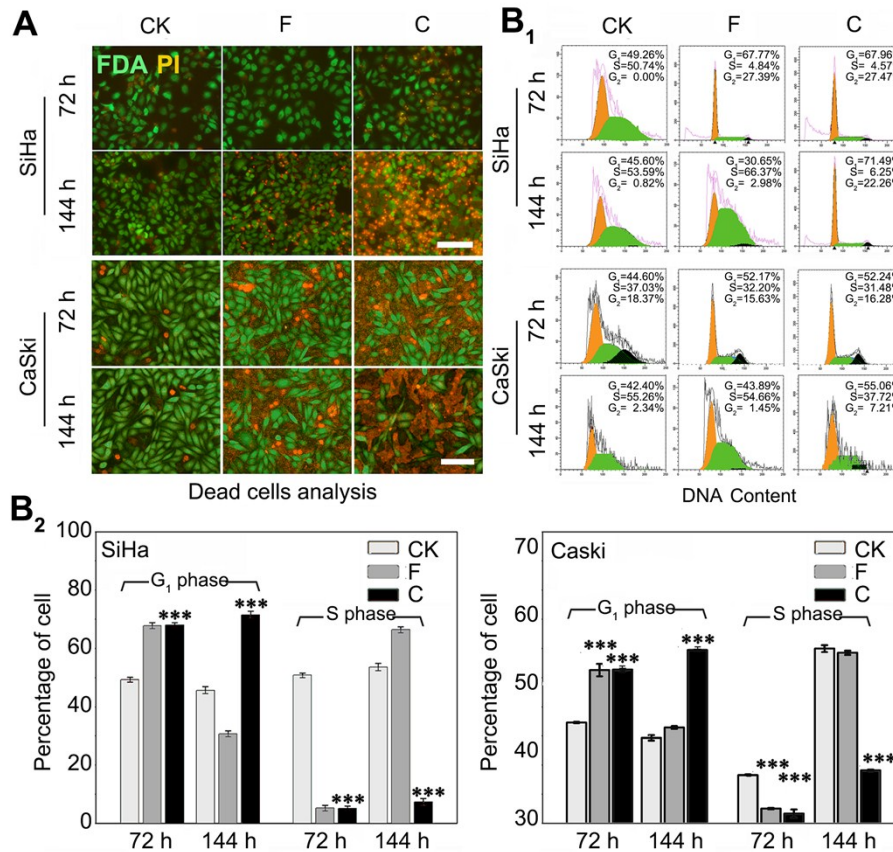
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Figure S3. Microarray analysis of HeLa and HeLa p27 shRNA cells for cell cycle genes. (A) the scatter diagrams (HeLa treated with co-immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ compared with free TNF- α plus IFN- γ (top), HeLa treated with co-immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ compared with HeLa p27 shRNA treated with co-immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ (bottom); (B) the chip images of 15 cell cycle relative genes which were changed significantly in two chips; (C) the gene function descriptions of 15 cell cycle relative genes which were changed significantly in two chips.

10 4. Regulation of p27 and p57 expression in the other cervix cancer cells

11 Figure S4-S5 shows the inhibition effect of co-immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ to SiHa
12 and CaSki cells. As shown in Figure S4A, when induced for 72 h, the cell death of co-
13 immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ was higher than other two groups. The result is more obvious
14 than 72 h when induced for 144 h. It is concluded that the co-immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ
15 group can also induce SiHa or CaSki cells death obviously, and as the extension of time, the
16 cell death was more obvious. Moreover, by 72 h and 144 h stimulation, we collected these
17 cells for flow cytometric analysis.

1 Figure S4B₁ and B₂ show that, when induced for 72 h, cell cycle arrest was not distinct
 2 compared to the free group. But when induced for 144 h, G₁ phase number in co-immobilized
 3 was evidently compared to the other two groups (***, $P<0.001$). It suggests that co-
 4 immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ can also strongly induce G₁ long arrest in the other cervix
 5 cancer cells.
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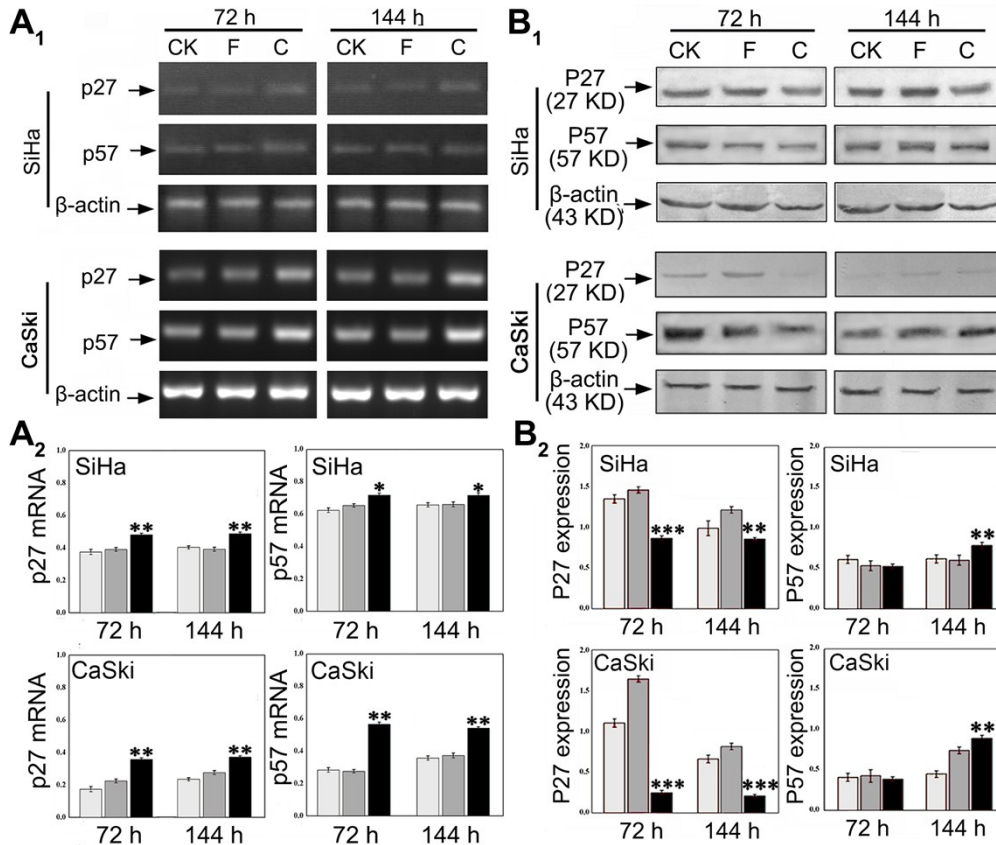
9 **Figure S4.** p27 and p57 regulation role analysis for SiHa or CaSki cells were treated with co-
 10 immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ for 72 h and 144 h. (A) Measured cell death for cells. The length bar=40
 11 μ m. (B₁) Measured cell cycle data by flow cytometry. (B₂) Evaluated cell percentages in the G₁ and S phase
 12 of cell cycle for the corresponding treatments. The relative levels are plotted with the significance $p<0.05$
 13 labeled by symbol * and $p<0.001$ labeled by symbol **, in comparison with the control group. The bars
 14 stand for the standard deviations (n=3).

15

16 Then after 72 h and 144 h stimulation, the RT-PCR results show that the expressions of
 17 p27 and p57 in mRNA level in co-immobilized were both highest in three groups as shown in
 18 Figure S5A. These results were consistent with RT-PCR results of HeLa cells. However, the
 19 results of western blotting show that the expression of P27 in protein level in co-immobilized

1 were the lowest. For P57, when induced for 72 h, the expression of P57 in protein level in co-
 2 immobilized was the lowest, but when induced for 144 h, the protein level was the highest, as
 3 shown in Figure S5B.

4



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6

7 **Figure S5.** p27 and p57 regulation role analysis for SiHa or CaSki cells were treated with co-
 8 immobilized TNF- α plus IFN- γ for 72 h and 144 h. (A₁-A₂) Measured mRNA expression data of p27 and
 9 p57 by real-time fluorescent quantitative PCR analysis for SiHa or CaSki cells. Blots were reprobred for β -
 10 actin and used as control for equal loading of proteins. The mRNA expression was determined using
 11 BandScan software. (B₁,B₂) Measured protein expression data of p27 and p57 by western blotting for SiHa
 12 or CaSki cells. Blots were reprobred for β -actin and used as control for equal loading of proteins. The
 13 protein expression was determined using BandScan software. The relative levels are plotted with the
 14 significance $p < 0.05$ labeled by symbol * and $p < 0.001$ labeled by symbol **, in comparison with the control
 15 group. The bars stand for the standard deviations (n=3).

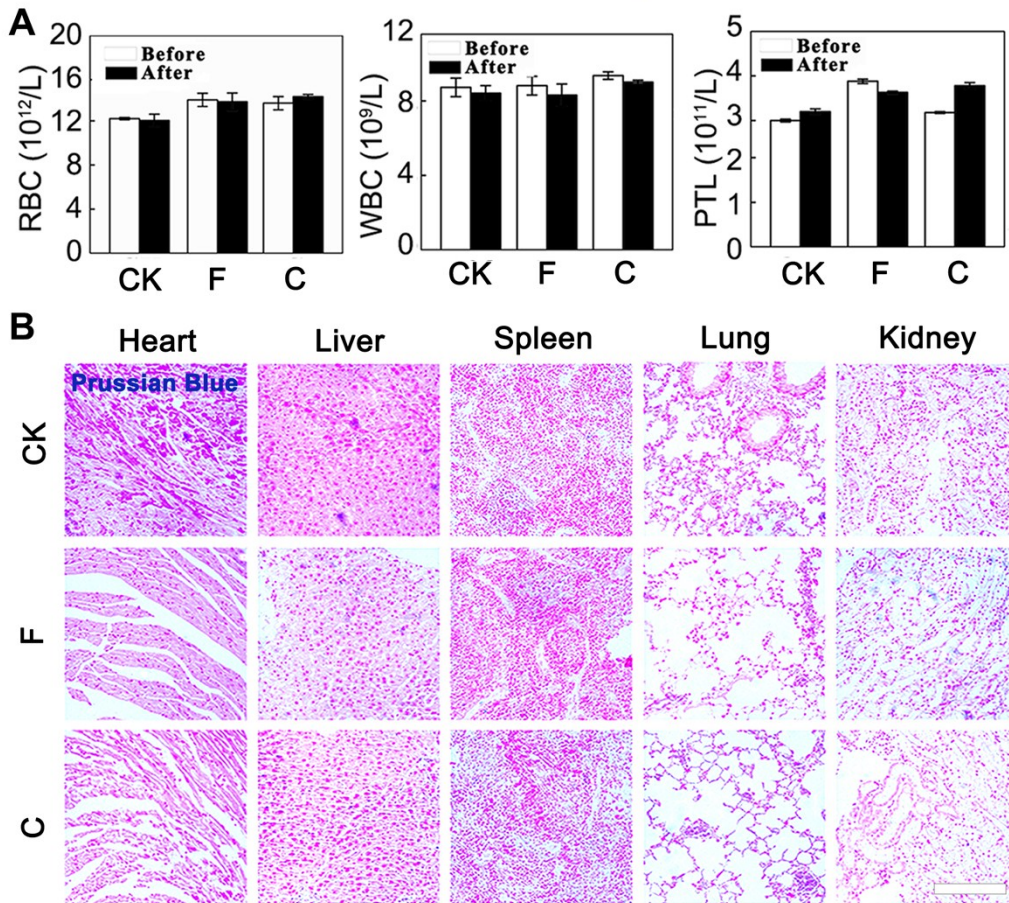
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17 5. Effect of nano-drug on tumor progression and toxicities data in nude mice models.

18 We then assessed the toxicity of the nano-drug in nude mice by counting white blood
 19 cells (WBC), blood platelets (PLT), and red blood cells (RBC). The results showed no
 20 significant difference when compared with the normal index, implying that there is no toxic
 21 effect *in vivo* (Figure S6A). At the same time, almost no multi-target MNPs were found in

1 other tissues, which is evidenced by the morphology of the hearts, livers, spleens, lungs, and
 2 kidneys shown in Figure S6B. Thus, all of these data indicate that the nano-drug can
 3 effectively inhibit tumor growth and reduce the mortality of tumor-burdened nude mice,
 4 without toxic effects.

5



6

7

8 **Figure S6.** Effect of nano-drug on tumor progression and toxicities data in nude mice models. (A)

9 Serological and toxicology test of nude mice, including the density of red blood cell (RBC, left), the
 10 density of white blood cell (WBC, middle), and the density of platelet (PLT, right), upon the treatment.

11 Significant increase or decrease at labels (*) ($P < 0.05$), labels (**) ($0.001 < p < 0.01$) and labels (***) $p <$
 12 0.001 , are identified in comparison with the CK-group. The bars stand for the standard deviations ($n=6$). (B)

13 Prussian blue staining of five normal tissues upon the treatment. The length bar= $100 \mu m$.

14