

# **Epoxyazadiradione Suppresses Breast Tumor Growth Through Mitochondrial Depolarization and Caspase-Dependent Apoptosis by Targeting PI3K/Akt Pathway**

**Dhiraj Kumar<sup>1</sup>, Saikat Haldar<sup>2#</sup>, Mahadeo Gorain<sup>1#</sup>, Santosh Kumar<sup>3</sup>, Fayaj A. Mulani<sup>2</sup>, Amit S. Yadav<sup>1</sup>, Lucio Miele<sup>4</sup>, Hirekodathakallu V. Thulasiram<sup>2</sup>, Gopal C. Kundu<sup>1\*</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Laboratory of Tumor Biology, Angiogenesis and Nanomedicine Research, National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune 411007, India

<sup>2</sup>Chemical Biology Unit, Division of Organic Chemistry, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune 411008, India

<sup>3</sup>Department of Biochemistry and Molecular and Cellular Biology, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington D.C. 20057, USA

<sup>4</sup>Department of Genetics, LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70112, USA

<sup>#</sup>These authors have contributed equally

**Competing financial interests:** The authors declare no competing financial interests

**Running title:** Epoxy attenuates breast tumor growth

**\*Correspondence:** Laboratory of Tumor Biology, Angiogenesis and Nanomedicine Research, National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune 411007, India; Email: [kundu@nccs.res.in](mailto:kundu@nccs.res.in)

**Email ID of Authors:**

Dhiraj Kumar: [dhirajbiot786@gmail.com](mailto:dhirajbiot786@gmail.com)

Saikat Haldar: [saikatbabu@gmail.com](mailto:saikatbabu@gmail.com)

Mahadeo Gorain: [mahadeo.gorain@gmail.com](mailto:mahadeo.gorain@gmail.com)

Santosh Kumar: [kumarsant@gmail.com](mailto:kumarsant@gmail.com)

Fayaj A Mulani: [mulanifayaj@gmail.com](mailto:mulanifayaj@gmail.com)

Amit S Yadav: [amit03@nccs.res.in](mailto:amit03@nccs.res.in)

Lucio Miele: [lmiele@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:lmiele@lsuhsc.edu)

Hirekodathakallu V. Thulasiram: [hv.thulasiram@ncl.res.in](mailto:hv.thulasiram@ncl.res.in)

Gopal C. Kundu: [kundu@nccs.res.in](mailto:kundu@nccs.res.in)

**Supplementary Table S1: List of antibodies used for western blot and immunofluorescence**

Name of Antibody	Catalog No.	Company Name	Source	Application
Bax	sc-526	Santa Cruz	Rabbit	WB, IP, IF, IHC(P) and ELISA
Bad	sc-8044	Santa Cruz	Mouse	WB, IP, IF, IHC(P) and ELISA
Bcl <sub>2</sub>	sc-492	Santa Cruz	Rabbit	WB, IP, IF, IHC(P) and ELISA
Cox2	sc-1747	Santa Cruz	Goat	WB, IP, IF, IHC(P) and ELISA
p-Akt1/2/3	sc-7985	Santa Cruz	Rabbit	WB, IP, IF, IHC(P) and ELISA
Akt1/2	sc-1619	Santa Cruz	Goat	WB, IP, IF, IHC(P) and ELISA
Flk1	sc-6251	Santa Cruz	Mouse	WB, IP, IF and IHC(P)
VEGF	sc-1876	Santa Cruz	Goat	WB, IP, IF, IHC(P) and ELISA
c-Jun	sc-45	Santa Cruz	Rabbit	WB, IP, IF and ELISA
c-Fos	sc-52	Santa Cruz	Rabbit	WB, IP, IF, IHC(P), FCM and ELISA
AIF	sc-13116	Santa Cruz	Mouse	WB, IP, IF, IHC(P), FCM and ELISA
p-Akt	4060	Cell Signaling	Rabbit	WB, IP, IF, F and IHC
PI3K p85	4257	Cell Signaling	Rabbit	WB and IP
p-PI3K p85	4228	Cell Signaling	Rabbit	WB and IP
Cleaved Caspase-9	9508	Cell Signaling	Mouse	WB
Cleaved Caspase-3	9664	Cell Signaling	Rabbit	WB, IP, IF, F and IHC
PARP	9542	Cell Signaling	Rabbit	WB
OPN	Ab36125 (M)	Abcam	Goat	WB

**Supplementary Table S2: IC<sub>50</sub> of epoxyazadiradione in breast cancer (MDA-MB-231 and MCF-7) cells**

Time	IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) in MDA-MB-231	IC <sub>50</sub> (μM) in MCF-7
24 h	95.69 ± 1.12	114.81 ± 1.14
48 h	80.71 ± 1.21	109.64 ± 10
72 h	66.93 ± 1.42	84.72 ± 1.13
96 h	66.86 ± 1.63	67.10 ± 1.05

## **SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS:**

### **Supplementary Figure 1: Epoxyazadiradione inhibits breast cancer cell viability. (a)**

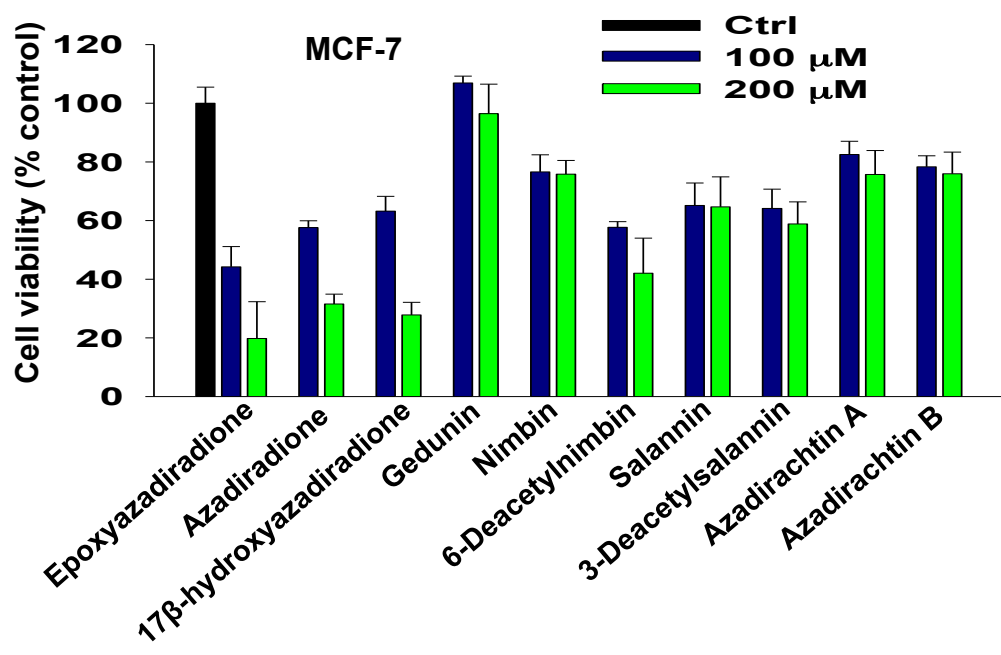
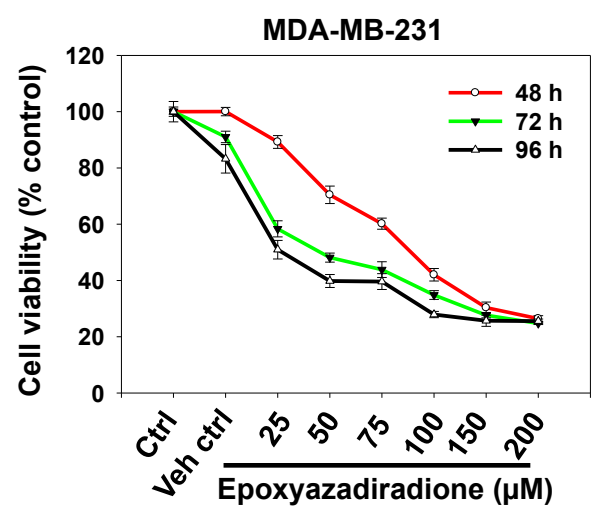
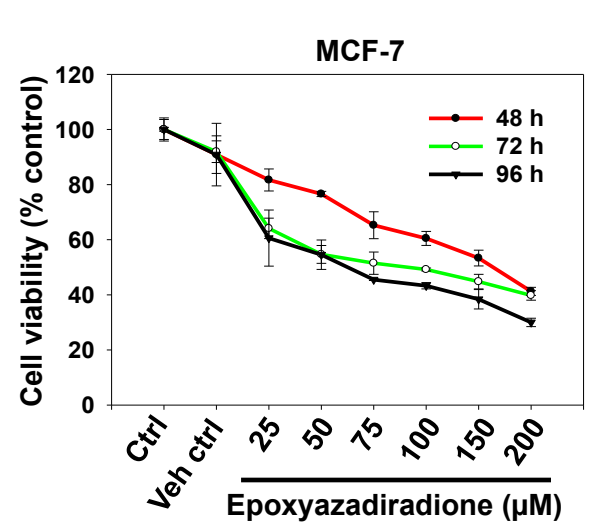
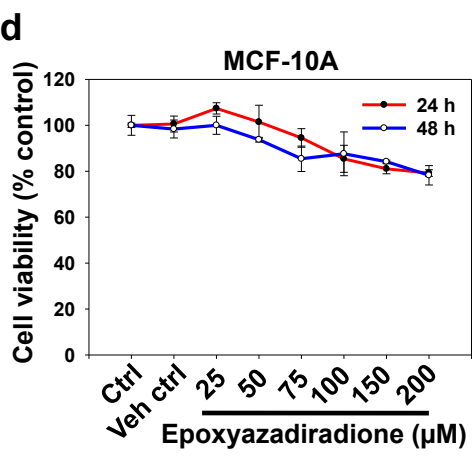
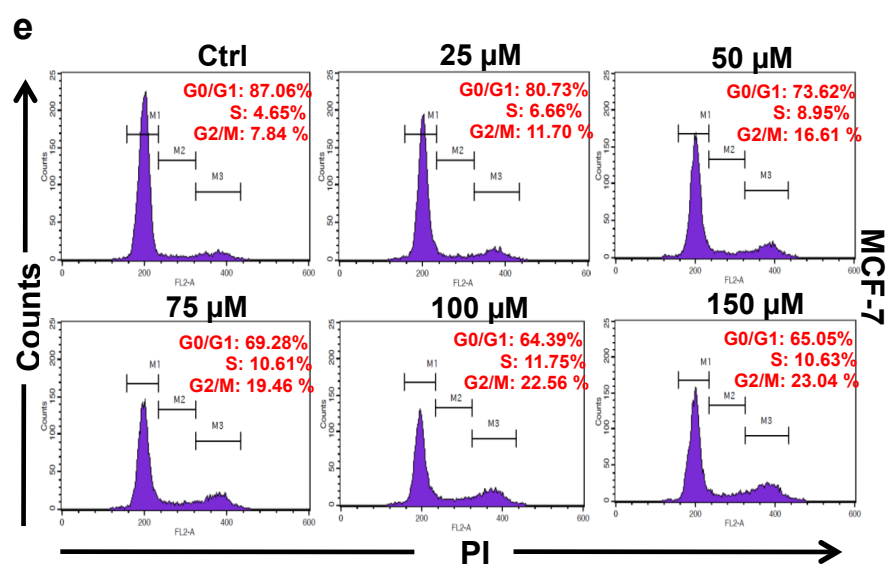
ER+ breast cancer, MCF-7 cells were seeded into 96-well plate at density of  $1 \times 10^4$  cells/200  $\mu$ l and treated in absence or presence of ten major neem limonoids compounds (**1**: Epoxyazadiradione; **2**: Azadiradione; **3**: 17 $\beta$ -hydroxyazadiradione; **4**: Gedunin; **5**: Nimbin **6**: 6-Deacetylnimbin; **7**: Salannin; **8**: 3-Deacetylsalannin; **9**: Azadirachtin A; **10**: Azadirachtin B) at 100 and 200  $\mu$ M concentrations for 24 h. Further, cell viability was determined using MTT assay and data were analyzed statistically and represented graphically. (**b** and **c**) MDA-MB-231 and MCF-7 cells were treated with epoxyazadiradione (0-200  $\mu$ M) for 48 h, 72 h and 96 h and the cell viability was analyzed using MTT assay. (**d**) Normal human mammary epithelial cells, MCF-10A ( $1 \times 10^4$ ) were seeded into 96-well plate and treated with increasing concentration of epoxyazadiradione (0-200  $\mu$ M) for 24 h and 48 h. Cell viability was determined using MTT assay, analyzed statistically and represented into line graph. (**e**) MCF-7 cells were treated with epoxyazadiradione (0-150  $\mu$ M) for 24 h, stained with propidium iodide (PI) and analyzed the cell cycle distribution by FACSCalibur cytometer. Values are represented in mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent experiments.

### **Supplementary Figure 2: Epoxyazadiradione induces cell death through ROS and AIF independent pathway in MCF-7 cells. (a)**

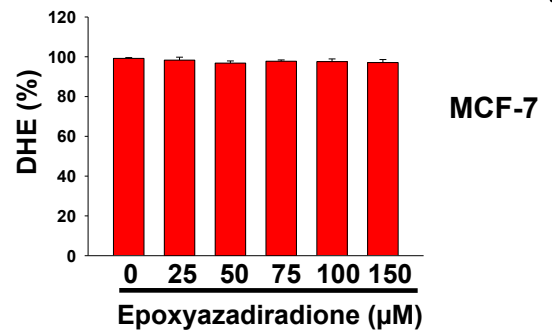
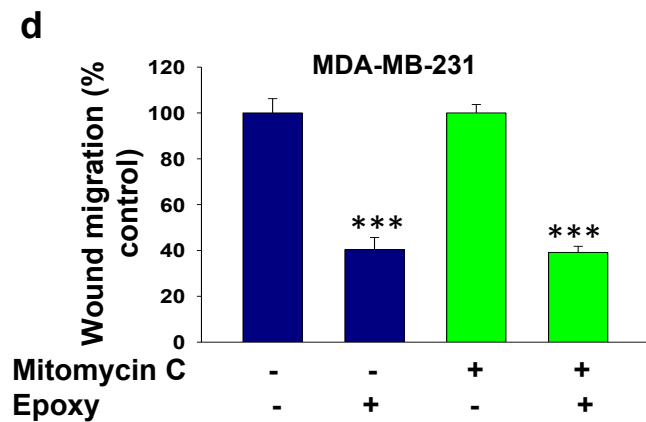
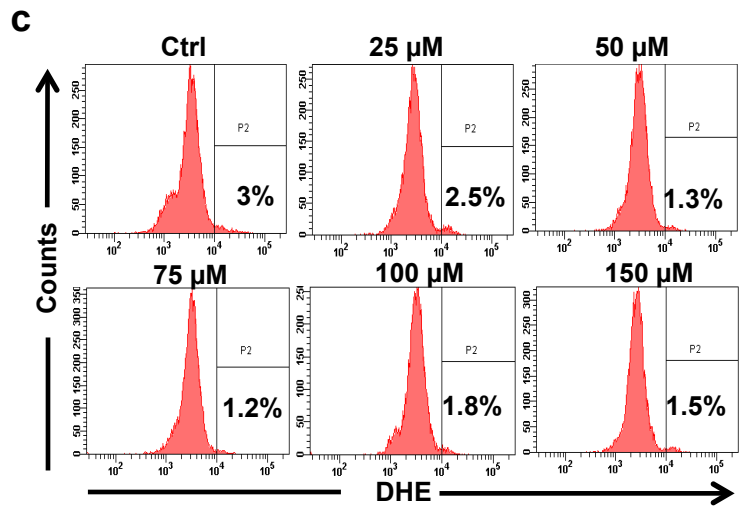
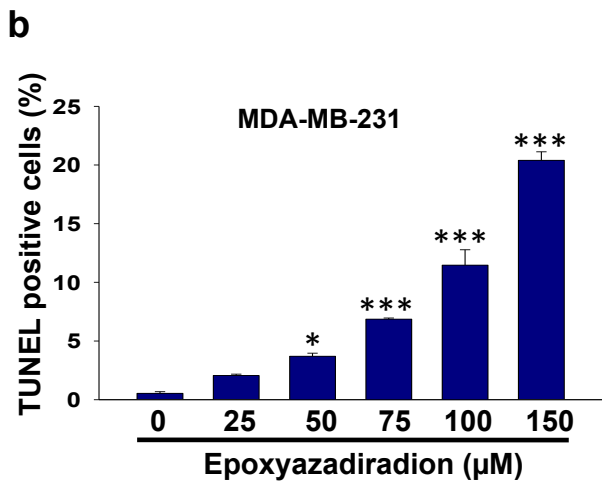
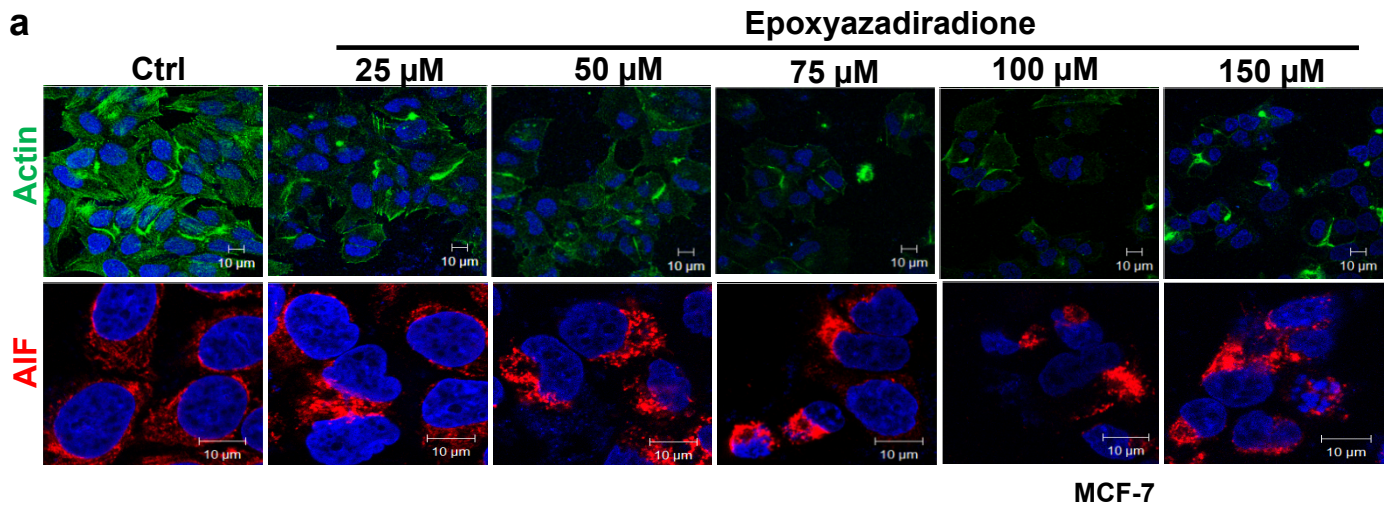
MCF-7 cells were treated with increasing concentrations of epoxyazadiradione and immunofluorescence staining was performed using phalloidin FITC or anti-AIF antibody and analyzed by confocal microscopy. Scale bar represents 10  $\mu$ m. (**b**) Bar graph represents the TUNEL positive cells upon epoxyazadiradione treatment in MDA-MB-231. Data are represented in mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent experiments. (**c**) MCF-7 cells were treated with epoxyazadiradione in dose-dependent manner, stained with DHE at 37°C for 20 min and analyzed by flow cytometry. The percentage of DHE staining was quantified and represented graphically. (**d**) MDA-MB-

231 cells were pretreated with caspase inhibitor (40  $\mu$ M) for 1 h, wounded with constant width and treated with either epoxyzadiradione (20  $\mu$ M) or mitomycin C (10  $\mu$ g/ml) or in combination of both for further 12 h. Photographs of wound were taken at T = 0 and 12 h. Migrated distance were measured using Image-Pro plus software and analyzed statistically and represented graphically using Sigma Plot software (\*,  $p < 0.015$ ; \*\*\*,  $p < 0.0001$  by one-way ANOVA with untreated control cells).

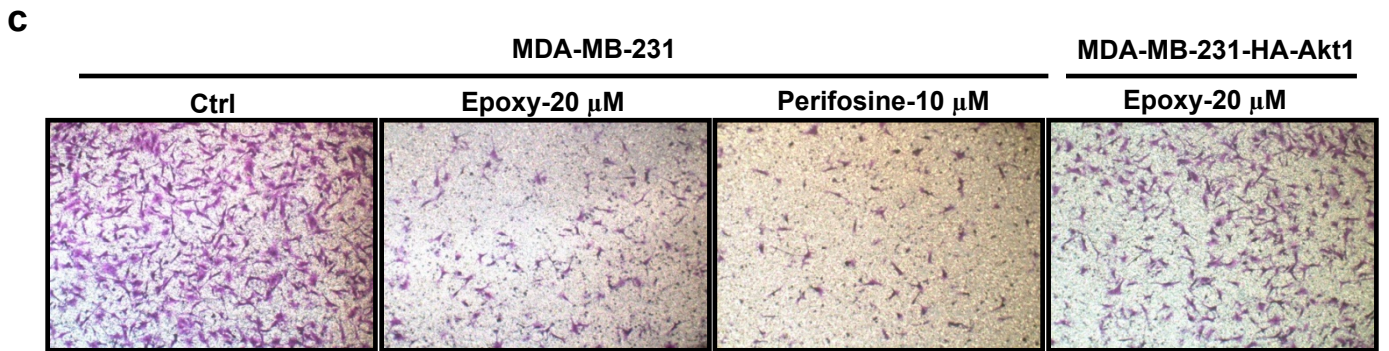
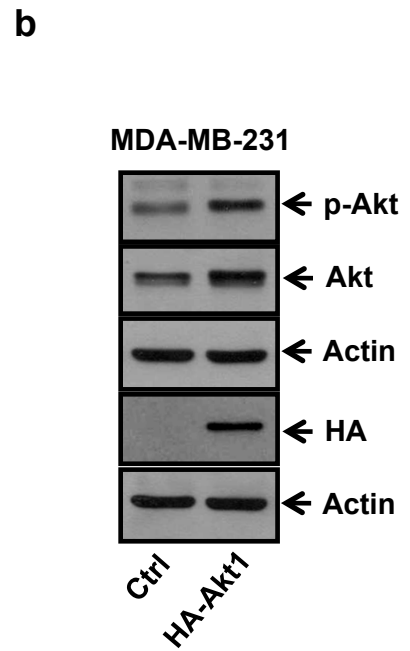
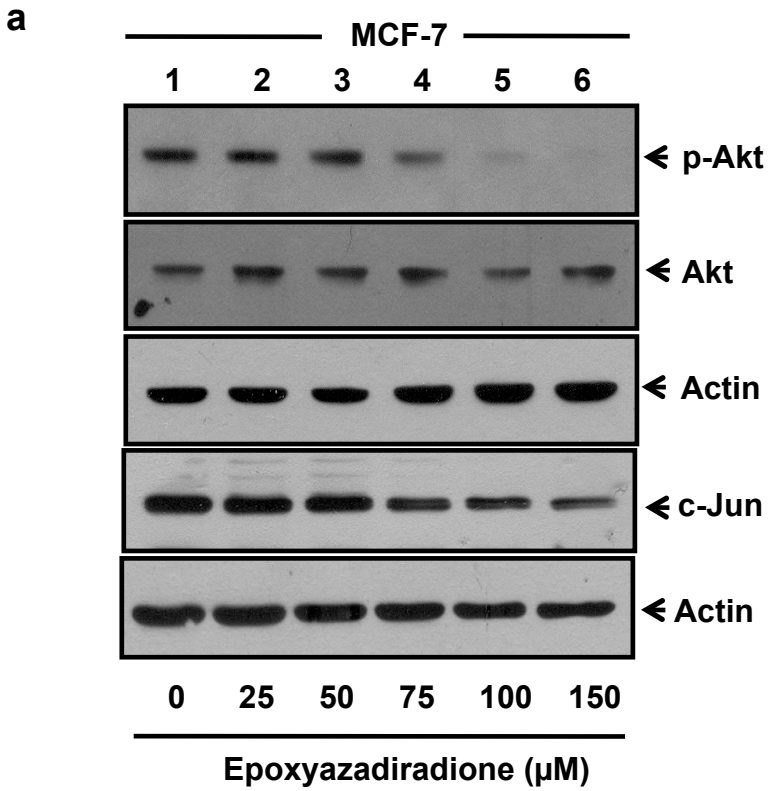
**Supplementary Figure 3: Epoxyzadiradione attenuates breast cancer cell migration through downregulation of PI3K/Akt pathway.** (a) MCF-7 cells were treated with epoxyzadiradione in dose-dependent manner for 24 h and the expressions of p-Akt and c-Jun were analyzed by immunoblot. (b) MDA-MB-231 cells were transiently transfected with pcDNA6-HA-Akt1 for 48 h and the expression level of p-Akt1, Akt1 or HA were analyzed by western blot. Actin was served as loading control. (c) MDA-MB-231 cells were pretreated with or without epoxyzadiradione (20  $\mu$ M) or perifosine (10  $\mu$ M). In separate experiments, these cells were transiently transfected with Akt1 as described above followed by epoxyzadiradione (20  $\mu$ M) treatment for 12 h. These cells were added on upper portion of Transwell chamber and incubated for another 12 h at 37°C. Migrated cells to the lower side of Transwell membrane were stained with 5% Crystal Violet and photographed (10X magnification).

**a****b****c****d****e**

Supplementary Figure: 1 Kumar et al



Supplementary Figure: 2 Kumar et al



Supplementary Figure: 3 Kumar et al