induces down-regulation of cyclin B1 expression. *P <0.05 in comparison with the control group. These observed effects of nicotine on caspase-3 and cyclin B1 mRNA levels were abolished by transfection with α7-siRNA.

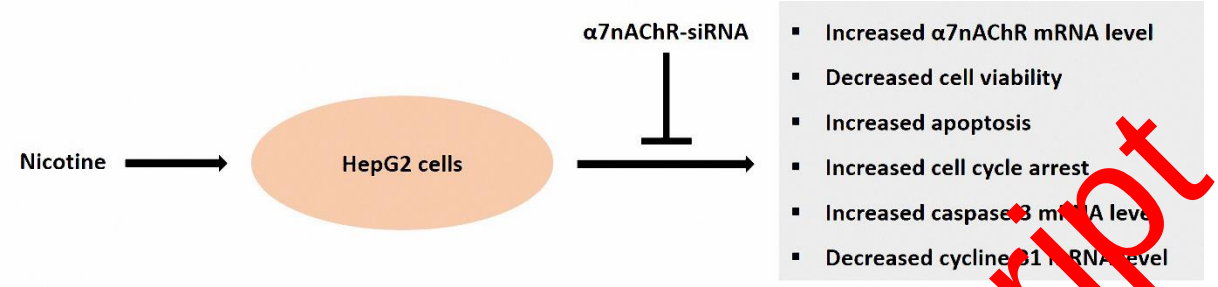

Figure 6. Treatment of the HepG2 cells with the α7nAChR specific siRNA blocks nicotine-induced proliferative and apoptotic effects.

Table 1. The sequence of primers for alpha7 nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (α7nAChR), caspase-3, cyclin B1, and GAPDH genes.

Genes		Sequences
α7nAChR	Forward	5′ CGCCACATTCCACACTAACG 3′
	Reverse	5′ AGACCAGGACCCAAACTTCAG 3′
Caspase-3	Forward	5′ TGTCATCTCGCTCTGGTACG 3′
	Reverse	5′ AAATCACCCCTTCATCACCA 3′
Cyclin B1	Forward	5′ GCTTGG GTCGGCCTCTACCT 3′
	Reverse	5′ AGCCAGGTGCTGCATAACTGGAA 3′
GAPDH	Forward	5′ CAAGATCATCAGCAATGCCTCC 3′
	Reverse	5′ GCCATCACGCCACAGTTTCC 3′