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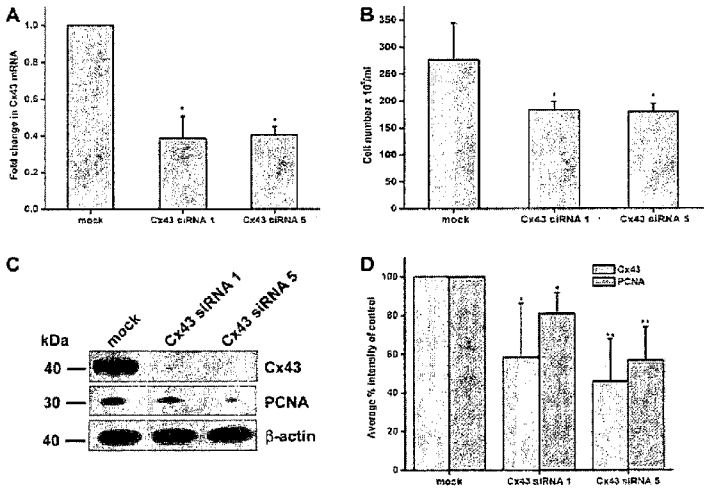
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(54) **Title**: METHOD OF INHIBITING PROLIFERATION OF HEPATIC STELLATE CELLS

FIGURE 7



(57) **Abstract**: There is presently provided a method of inhibiting proliferation of a hepatic stellate cell comprising directly down-regulating the hepatic stellate cell proliferation activity of connexin-43 in the hepatic stellate cell for the treatment of hepatic fibrosis or related disorder. This method primarily involves down regulating connexin-43 with agents such as Snail, siRNAs, anisense RNA and DNA enzymes directed against the connexin-43 transcript. As a result the proliferation of activated hepatic stellate cells is down regulated.

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