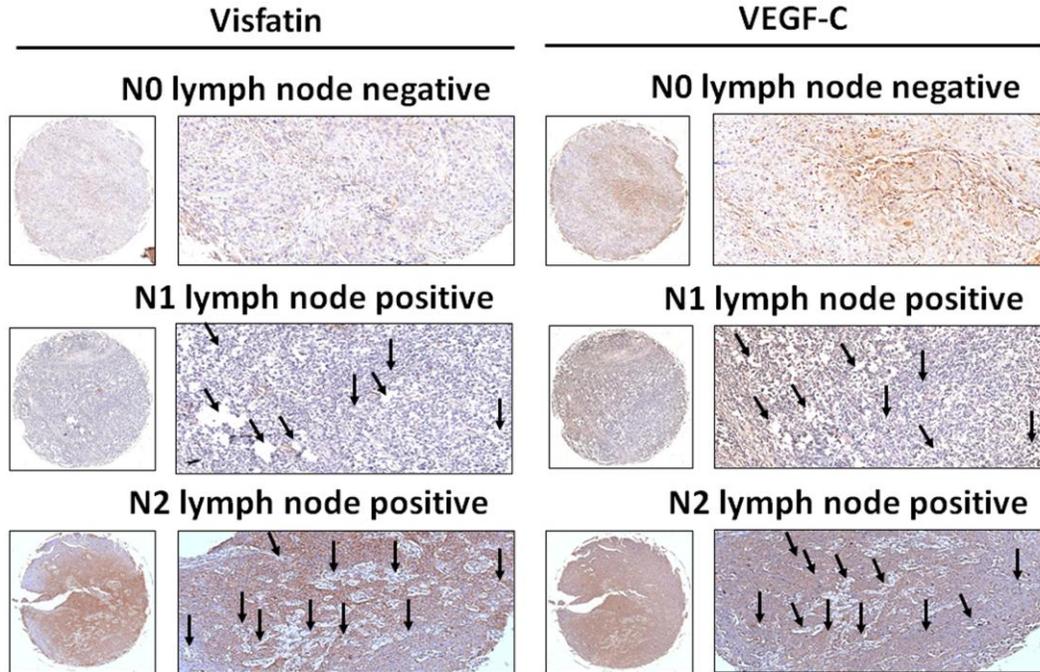
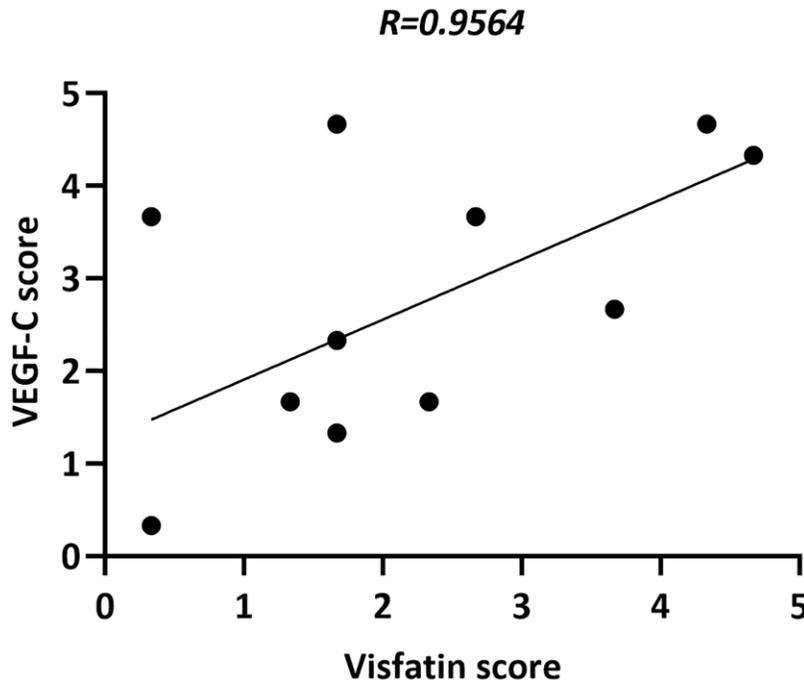


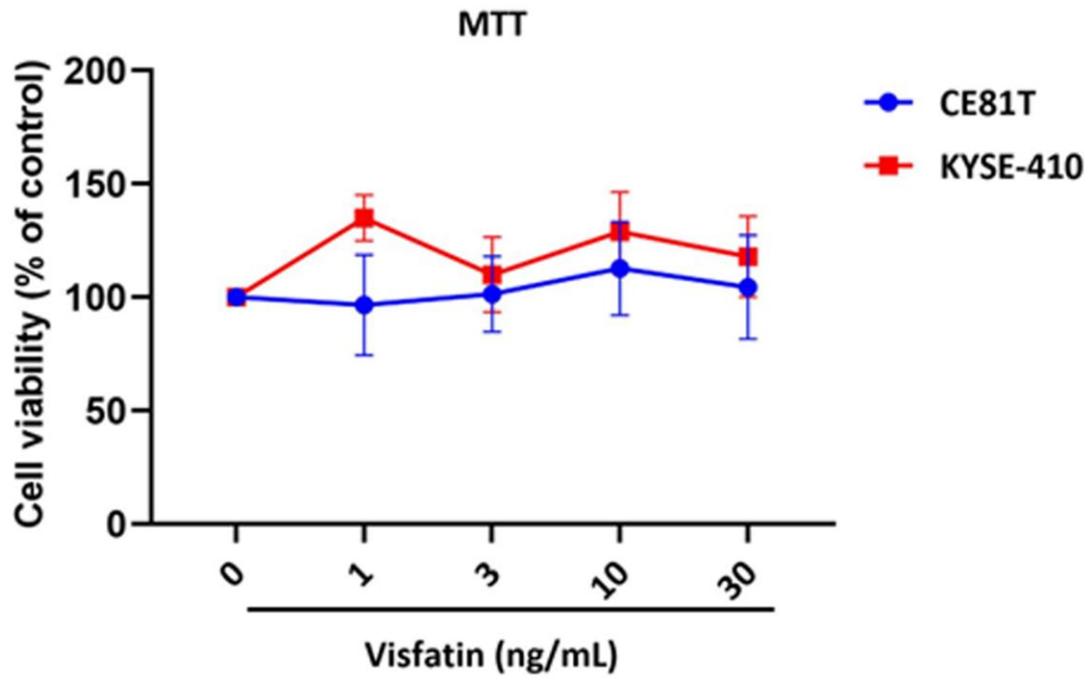
**SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES**



**Supplementary Figure 1. Lymphatic vessel density levels are upregulated in ESCC tumor tissues.** Histologic sections of ESCC tumor stained with immunoassayed with visfatin or VEGF-C antibody. The black arrows indicate positive peritumoral lymphatic vessels identified in the ESCC tumor tissues.



**Supplementary Figure 2. A positive correlation was identified between levels of visfatin and VEGF-C expression on ESCC tumor tissues.** Histologic sections of ESCC tumor stained with visfatin or VEGF-C antibody and positive association between visfatin and VEGF-C was analyzed.



**Supplementary Figure 3. Visfatin K does not affect ESCC cell viability.** ESCCs were incubated with different concentrations of visfatin K (0, 1, 3, 10, or 30 ng/mL) for 24 h and cell viability was examined by the MTT assay.