

Figure S1. Inverted phase-contrast images of SH-SY5Y cells (20 x magnification) treated with only-vehicle, control cells (a), Cd²⁺ (b), Hg²⁺ (c), and Pb²⁺ (d) at a concentration of 25 μM.

The results obtained with the MTT assay were confirmed by the observation of the cells under the inverted phase-contrast microscopy (Figure 1). Indeed, cells in the control group, treated with the vehicle only, showed normal neuronal cells morphology after 24h. On the contrary, cells exposed to Cd²⁺ at a concentration of 25 μM exhibited an irregular morphology, decreasing in number (about 50%) with respect to control cells. A similar cellular distribution and morphology was observed for cells treated with Hg²⁺ 25 μM. Instead, after 24h of treatment with Pb²⁺ cells morphology appeared more similar to that of control cells with a slight decrease in cells number.

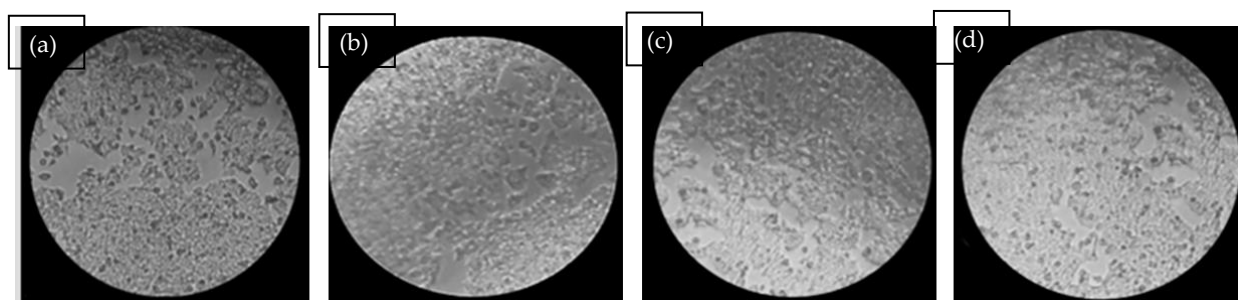


Figure S2. Inverted phase-contrast images of SH-SY5Y cells (20 x magnification) treated with only-vehicle, control cells (a), EA 1 μM (b), EA 5 μM (c), and EA 10 μM (d).

Cell morphology results indicated a normal and uniform SH-SY5Y cells distribution along with an intact morphology after 24h. Cells exposed to different concentrations of EA (1–10 μM) showed a similar morphology at all the concentrations compared to control cells (a). However, an increased cells number has been observed thus confirming the results obtained by means of the MTT assay.