

FIGURE 1 | HHT inhibits HCC cell growth in vitro. (A, B) HepG2 and Huh7 cells were treated with HHT (0–400 nM) for 24, 48, and 72 h. (C) Representative images of HepG2 and Huh7 cells treated with control or 50 nM HHT. (D) Scatter plots showing cell counts for HepG2 and Huh7 cells treated with 0 or 50 nM HHT. Data were analyzed by ANOVA. Error bars represent standard deviation. N = 3, E = S.D.

HHT Suppresses the Malignant Phenotype of HCC Cells via Activating the Hippo Pathway

HHT (0–400 nM) significantly inhibited the growth of HepG2 and Huh7 cells in a dose-dependent manner (Figures 1A, B). The IC_{50} values of HHT for HepG2 and Huh7 cells were 616.2 and 420.4 nM, respectively, at 24 h. At 48 and 72 h, the IC_{50} values of HHT for HepG2 and Huh7 cells were 139.7 and 85.23 nM, respectively. The IC_{50} values of HHT for HepG2 and Huh7 cells were 67.85 and 59.83 nM, respectively, at 72 h. HHT (50 nM) significantly inhibited the growth of HepG2 and Huh7 cells (Figures 1C, D). The cell counts of HepG2 and Huh7 cells treated with 50 nM HHT were significantly lower than those of the control group (Figures 1C, D). HHT (50 nM) significantly inhibited the growth of HepG2 and Huh7 cells (Figures 1C, D). The cell counts of HepG2 and Huh7 cells treated with 50 nM HHT were significantly lower than those of the control group (Figures 1C, D).

(Figures 4C, D Supplementary Figures S2A, B).

HHT Inhibits HCC Cell Growth in Xenograft Models

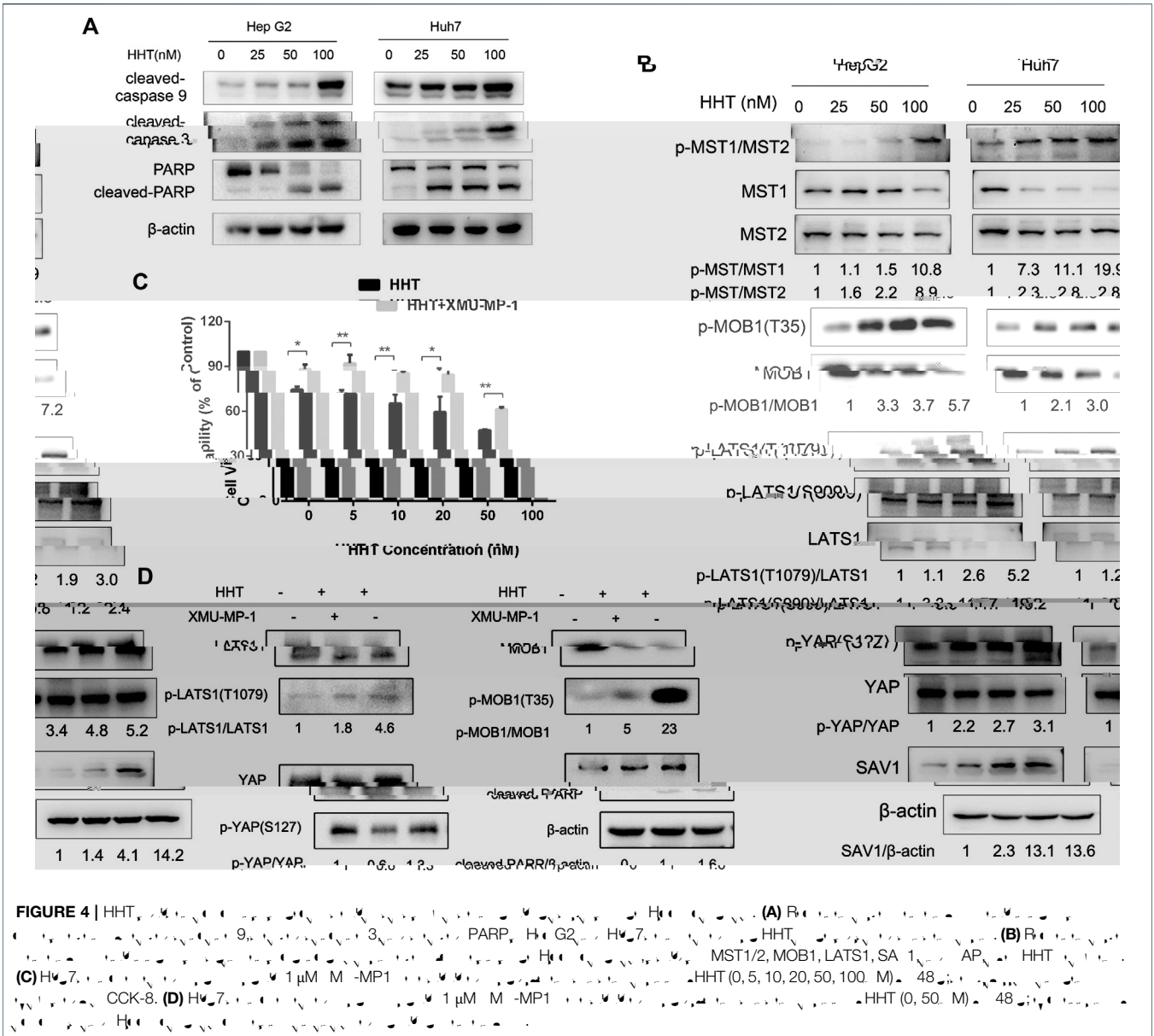
HHT (100 nM) significantly inhibited the growth of HepG2 and Huh7 cells in xenograft models *in vivo* (Figures 2A, B). The tumor volume of HepG2 and Huh7 cells treated with 100 nM HHT was significantly lower than that of the control group (Figures 2A, B). HHT (100 nM) significantly inhibited the growth of HepG2 and Huh7 cells in xenograft models *in vivo* (Figures 2A, B). The tumor volume of HepG2 and Huh7 cells treated with 100 nM HHT was significantly lower than that of the control group (Figures 2A, B).



FIGURE 2 | HHT treatment effects on HepG2 and Huh7 cells. (A) Heatmap showing HHT-induced gene expression changes in HepG2 and Huh7 cells. (B) Bar graph showing HHT-induced gene expression changes in HepG2 cells. (C) Bar graph showing HHT-induced gene expression changes in Huh7 cells. (D) Bar graph showing HHT-induced gene expression changes in HepG2 cells. (E) Bar graph showing HHT-induced gene expression changes in Huh7 cells. HHT concentrations: 0, 25, 50, 100 nM. Time points: 24, 48, 72 h. Error bars represent S.D. Statistical significance: * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001. ANOVA, Dunnett's Test. N = 3. E = S.D.

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(Figures 5A,C).
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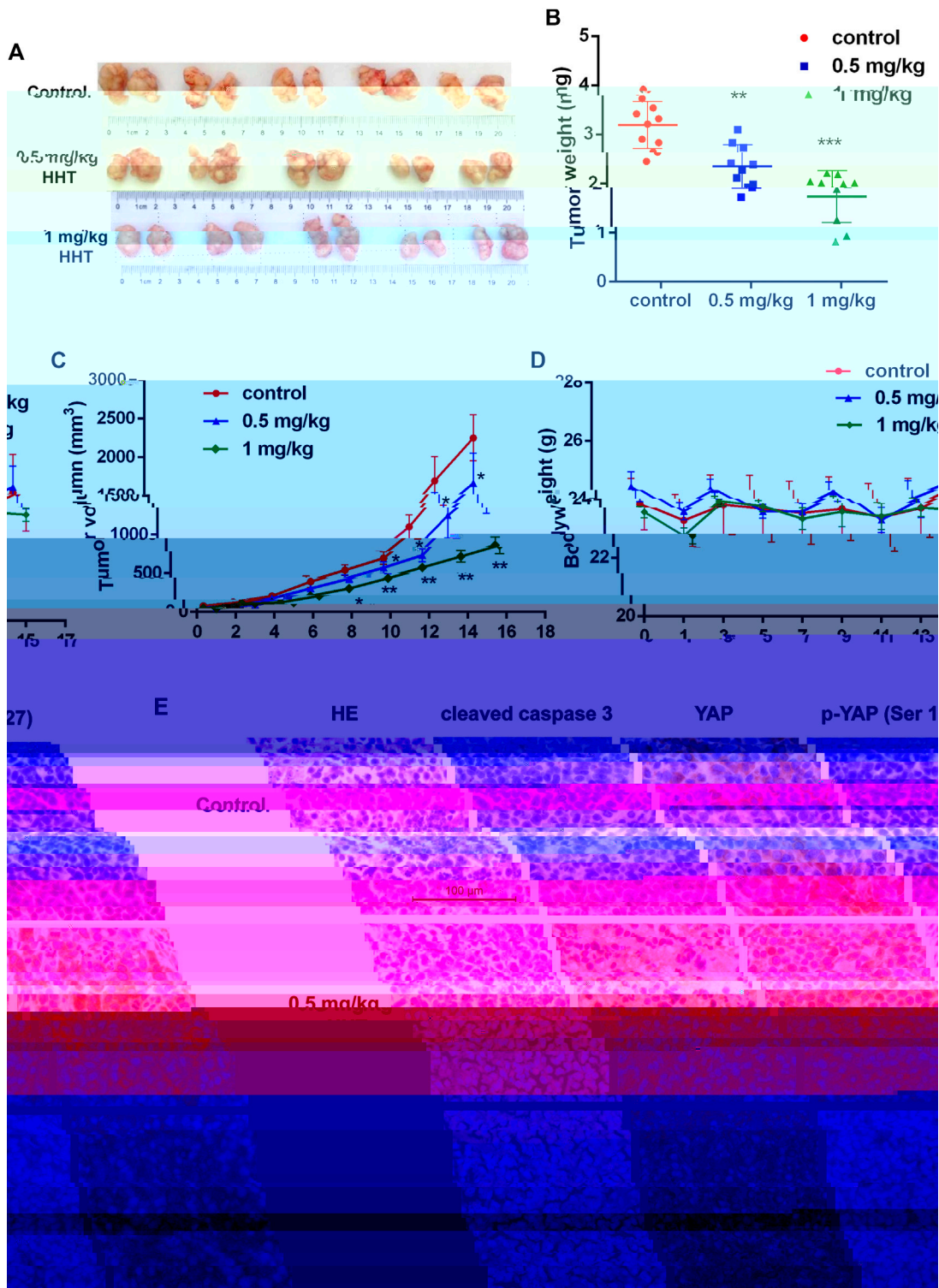


FIGURE 5 | HHT, a novel YAP inhibitor, significantly inhibited tumor growth in HCC. (A) Representative images of excised tumors from DMSO-, HHT- (0.5 mg/kg, 1 mg/kg) treated mice. (B) Significant reduction in tumor weight in HHT-treated mice compared to control. (C) Significant reduction in tumor volume in HHT-treated mice compared to control. (D) No significant change in body weight in HHT-treated mice compared to control. (E) Representative immunohistochemical staining for HE, cleaved caspase 3, YAP, and p-YAP (Ser 127) in control and 0.5 mg/kg HHT-treated mice. Scale bar = 100 μm. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001, ANOVA. Data are presented as mean ± S.D. N = 3.

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Conflict of Interest:

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