

Dear editor:

Thank you for your thorough review and salient observations. We have carefully read and addressed the comments from reviewers in the revised manuscript. Please see the point-by-point responses. All the changes are highlighted and we hope the revised manuscript is suitable for publication in World J Gastroenterol.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

Dong-Yong Liu, Ph.D.

Science and Technology College

Jiangxi University of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Nanchang, 330004, Jiangxi, China

Tel:

Email:

Response for reviewer:

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript addresses an important topic of the inflammatory process, that is, the role of regulatory T cells in the inflammatory process in experimental colitis, similar to Crohn's disease, using a Chinese herb that has shown anti-inflammatory effect in various diseases. The result indicates that TNBS- induced experimental colitis is ameliorated by the restoration of regulatory T cells and the inhibition of IL -17. The drug's behavior is similar to the use of mezalazine, which is considered to be little efficient to treat Crohn's disease. It would have been better if the authors had compared the herb to anti-TNF antibody. Despite the problem mentioned, the work deserves to be published as it is an original contribution using suitable technology.

Response: Thank you for your approval and suggestion! TNF- α plays an important role in the pathogenesis of IBD through various mechanisms such as inducing apoptosis of colonic epithelial cell, promoting neutrophil infiltration and activating NF- κ B et al. Anti-TNF- α antibody is a used for treatment of IBD in clinic. However, in this present study, we focus on evaluating therapeutic effect of Astragalus polysaccharide (APS) treated experimental colitis and its effect of APS on Treg cells in Peyer's patches in rats with colitis. It is known that mesalazine is a classic medicines treated IBD which can regulate the level of Treg cells (Langhorst, et al; 2014), thus it was selected as positive control in our study. We are very interested in exploring the effect of ASP on apoptosis of epithelial cell and recruitment of neutrophil in following study, anti-TNF- α antibody such as Infliximab, Adalimumab, and Etanercept would be an ideal positive control in that case. Hope my answer gets your satisfaction, thank you very much.

Reference:

Langhorst J, Frede A, Knott M, Pastille E, Buer J, Dobos GJ, Westendorf AM. Distinct kinetics in the frequency of peripheral CD4⁺ T cells in patients with ulcerative colitis experiencing a flare during treatment with mesalazine or with a herbal preparation of myrrh, chamomile, and coffee charcoal. PLoS One. 2014;9(8):e104257.