

Dear Dr. Gong

I am very pleased to resubmit our revised manuscript entitled " A new botanical drug, HL tablet, reduces hepatic fat as measured by magnetic resonance spectroscopy in patients with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: a placebo-controlled, randomized, phase II trial (Manuscript NO: 33335)" for your consideration as a publication in "World Journal of Gastroenterology".

We deeply appreciate the sharp and considerate comments by all the reviewers. We have revised the manuscript appropriately according to all the comments.

The followings are the answers according to the reviewer's comments, item by item.

Sincerely,

Joo Hyun Sohn, MD, PhD

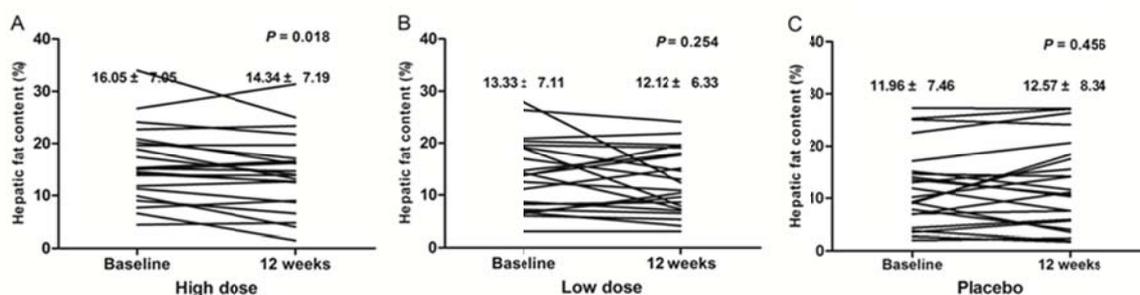
Answers for the reviewer's comments

We once again appreciate for all your comments. These are the answers for the reviewer's comments. We thank you sincerely for your support and advice on our paper. We tried our best to fully understand the comments and concerns from all the reviewers and revised this paper as you recommended. **Changed sentences were marked as blue color.** We hope this paper to be accepted and published in World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Reviewer 1 (Reviewer's code: 02860895):

This is a report of phase II trial of HL tablet as a therapy for NAFLD. The fascinating results are worthy to be published. However, I'd like to give some comments to improve this report as a scientific paper. Table 2 shows the most important findings of this study, but seems to be abstractive. I recommend using a dot plot graph to indicate changes in liver fat content between baseline and post-medication in each group. The data will be demonstrated more concretely. Additionally, Figure 2, which is difficult to understand, may be unnecessary if the dot plot graph is adopted instead of Table 2.

Thank you for your comment. As the reviewer commented, we made "a dot plot graph to indicate changes in liver fat content between baseline and post-medication in each group" as new figure 2 instead of previous figure 2.



Reviewer 2 (Reviewer's code: 00037028):

This is a nicely done study that is well written and clear to understand. There are however a couple of grammatical issues with the manuscript and a discrepancy in the data reporting. On page 13 the header DISCUSSION is missing the letter S. Also, on page 14 there should be a break between 12 and week.

Thank you for your comment. As the reviewer commented, we revised this in the "DISCUSSION" section.

The data reported in the written manuscript and in the graphic chart are not in agreement. The written results cite mean change from baseline and report the changes in HFC for high dose, low dose, and placebo, respectively as -1.7, -1.21, and +0.61. The graphic chart describes relative change and reports -12.1, -3.2 and +9.6, respectively. Both places should use the same endpoint and the numbers should be made to agree prior to publishing.

Thank you for your comment. As the reviewer commented, we made new figure 2 instead of previous figure 2. So, the data reported in the written manuscript and in the graphic chart were in agreement.