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## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 33335

**Title:** 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

**Reviewer's code:** 02860895

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-03-23

**Date reviewed:** 2017-03-25

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

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.



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**Title:** 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

**Reviewer's code:** 00037028

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-03-23

**Date reviewed:** 2017-03-30

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ] High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] No	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ] Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> [ Y] No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

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. 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.