

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 36959

**Title:** Autophagy activation by Jiang Zhi Granule protects against metabolic stress-induced hepatocyte injury

**Reviewer's code:** 00053441

**Reviewer's country:** Portugal

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-11-10

**Date reviewed:** 2017-11-17

**Review time:** 7 Days

| 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor            |   | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         |  |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript by Zheng YY et al evaluates the effects of Jiang Zhi Granule in NAFLD. The authors used an in vitro and in vivo approach. The manuscript is well written and the data generated supports the conclusions. As the authors pointed out, new therapeutical approaches are needed and the effects of traditional medicine should be evaluated. I have only a few comments: Major point: Discussion should be reformulated. It contains introductory material (paragraphs 1 and 2) and lacks a real discussion of data. Minor points: Abstract The authors should state that an in vitro and in vivo approach was used in the Abstract. Why was not included a control group having JZG. This would be interesting, because the dosage applied is much higher (994mg/kg).

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 36959

**Title:** Autophagy activation by Jiang Zhi Granule protects against metabolic stress-induced hepatocyte injury

**Reviewer's code:** 00646291

**Reviewer's country:** United Kingdom

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-12-01

**Date reviewed:** 2017-12-06

**Review time:** 5 Days

| 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

• More details for the LC3, p62, p-mTORC1, mTORC1, p-PI3K, PI3K and Actin antibodies used in the study should be provided including their product numbers. • Reference should be provided for the statement "PA is a type of free fatty acid that is elevated in obese subjects and can induce NAFLD". • In the labeling of the figure 1B it is not clear what ALA indicates. Should it be JZG? • In the labeling of the figure 1D it should be clearly indicated that the cells were treated with combination of PA with either rapamycin or JZG. The same for all the figures in which combination treatments or PA pre-treatment have been used. • In the western blots shown in figure 5A it is not clear where the samples originate from. • In the sentence "We found that JZG activated the autophagy process by either induction or co-localization and degradation to protect against metabolic stress-induced hepatocyte injury in NAFLD" induction, co-localization,

and degradation should be specified. • In the labeling of the figure 4A ZJG should be replaced with JZG • Instead of Reactive Oxidative Species insert Reactive Oxygen Species

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 36959

**Title:** Autophagy activation by Jiang Zhi Granule protects against metabolic stress-induced hepatocyte injury

**Reviewer's code:** 00004603

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2017-12-01

**Date reviewed:** 2017-12-08

**Review time:** 6 Days

| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor                 |   | BPG Search:                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision     |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title        |  |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication |  |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism            |  |
|  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         |  |

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting study on the ability of IZG to regulate autophagy at metabolic stress-induced hepatic injury. Although if general impression is good, there are some problems that can be potentially fixed: 1. The results are not clear presented and will be very difficult to follow for those who do not specialized in autophagy. Methods, results and interpretation requires more details; 2. According to Autophagy guidelines, instead of LCII/LCI ratio, the upstream events should be presented as LCII/GAPDH or actin. 3. Yellow punctate does not always support the fusion between autophagosome and lysosome. It may happened if lysosomal enzymes are not active and GFP is not degraded. 3. More tests to characterize lysosome function (such as cathepsin activities) are necessary since p62 also is might be degraded by proteasome, and could be stabilized if proteasome activity is impaired. 4. Discussion should be more detailed. 5.



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There are grammar mistakes , and the paper should undergo editing by English speaking person. 6. Potentially, this is a good paper if it is better written. 2.