

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 46893

**Title:** Berberine prevents stress-induced gut inflammation, visceral hypersensitivity and reduces intestinal motility in rats

**Reviewer's code:** 00503345

**Reviewer's country:** Canada

**Science editor:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-03-25 17:39

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-03-27 22:15

**Review time:** 2 Days and 4 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this manuscript the authors demonstrate that berberine prevents Water Avoidance Stress (WAS)-mediated gut inflammation, visceral hypersensitivity and reduces intestinal motility. The experiments are well done and informative. Major comment:

Since this is mainly a correlative study, the authors should be more cautious with their conclusions. For example the author cannot state that the therapeutic efficacy of berberine is closely associated with inhibition of the NF-kB signalling pathway (Core tip and Discussion). They are showing only a modulation of p65 NF-kB protein levels (not phosphorylation or p65 nuclear translocation). Minors points: -WAS should be defined as Water Avoidance Stress. -The quality of a few figures should be visually improved, in a readable format (middle panel of figure 8, panel C of figure 6). -In figure 5, 8 and 9, the authors presented the effect of berberine on WAS-mediated cytokines, TrkB, and C-kit protein expression. Data are presented as percent of control group. It would be important to give the raw protein values for the control group in the figure legends.

## INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

### *Google Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

### *BPG Search:*

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 46893

**Title:** Berberine prevents stress-induced gut inflammation, visceral hypersensitivity and reduces intestinal motility in rats

**Reviewer's code:** 03000422

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-03-25 04:19

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-04-05 09:28

**Review time:** 11 Days and 5 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study was well designed and the point of view is very interesting. There are several problems in this paper prior to the publication in WJG. 1. There are significant differences in the effect of berberine between the low dose (25mg/kg) and the high dose



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(100mg/kg). How much is the dose of berberine used in Chinese clinical setting? The authors should describe this point in introduction and discussion. 2. I think it is better for reader's understanding to make one figure that described the relationship between NF-kB signal, BDNF, C-kit and the underlying role of berberine if possible. 3. Full spelling is needed of BDNF in abstract and introduction. 4. Berberine (BBR) was described in abstract. However BBR is not used in other parts of main document. 5. The aims of this study should be mentioned in introduction.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

##### ***Google Search:***

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- ☐ No

##### ***BPG Search:***

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- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No