

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 55787

Title: Gegen Qinlian decoction enhances immunity and protects intestinal barrier function of colorectal cancer patients via gut microbiota

Reviewer's code: 03727100

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: China

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Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

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Scientific quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you for giving us the precious opportunity for reading an interesting report. I have some questions. 1. In Abstract, what does MSS stand for? 2. In immunochemistry, how is the IOD value measured? 3. In this report, what TNM classification was used? UICC? 4. About the reduction of inflammation, is there a possibility that the influence of other drugs contributed? 5. Are there any differences of the overall survival, and CRC recurrence between Control group and Treatment group? 6. In the “GQD reduced inflammation” section, authors described “Meanwhile, compared with the control group and pre-treatment group, GQD significantly reduced the level of 5-HT in the post-treatment”. However, the value of 5-HT is not significantly different between control and post-treatment in Figure 2F. 7. How should we interpret Figure 6? Did the carcinogenic gut microbiota increase in post treatment data? 8. In page 14, line 10, the authors described “their activation state may be changed.”. Are there any methods to investigate the activation of NK and Treg cell? If you can’t, it’s okay. 9. In page 16, line 15-16, a next sentence “the abundance of harmful bacteria such as *Escherichia coli*, *Bacteroides fragilis*, and *Fusobacterium nucleatum* increased,” is written. Therefore, harmful bacteria increased in the post-treatment because the abundance of Bacteroidetes was increased? 10. Do you need the paragraph starting with a sentence “Many scientists ...” in page 17? Discussion part is long. If you need the paragraph, you don’t have to remove the paragraph. 11. In page 18, line 12-13, “In this study, the abundance of *Akkermansia* of patients with CRC after taking GQD was increased”. Is there a figure of the result?