

## **Reply to reviewers' comments**

We thank the reviewers for their constructive suggestions and comments which has helped in improving the manuscript. Revisions are made as per the reviewers' suggestions and highlighted in the manuscript.

### **Reviewer 1:**

Background should be included in the introduction section regarding methods of mesenchymal stem cells collection and administration to patients with infectious diseases. Methodology section is required that include methods or search, inclusion criteria, resources, and search engines. The deleterious side effects if any after employment of mesenchymal stem cells therapy should be added into a separated section in the article.

### **Authors:**

Background on the methods of isolation and route of administration is included in the introduction section (pages 1, 2). Details on the route of administration is discussed in detail in page 20.

Methodology section is now included, page 3.

The challenges in utilizing MSCs for treatment of infectious diseases is discussed in pages 19-20.

### **Reviewer 2:**

In this manuscript, the authors discuss the various mechanisms by which MSCs help in combating the pathogens, tissue damage associated with infectious diseases and challenges in utilizing MSCs for therapy. The content of this paper is comprehensive, which can reflect the main progress of this research direction, and has obvious reference value for readers. The topic is within the scope of the WJSC. However, there're still several issues which should be addressed.

1. The contents of this manuscript are relatively complex, the authors should add some figures or tables in almost every sections to facilitate readers' understanding. 2. Among the problems existing in the application of MSCS, the problem of its source should be added. If allogeneic stem cells are included, their immunity should be discussed. So, minor revision should be recommended for this manuscript.

### **Authors:**

We thank the reviewer for the constructive suggestions.

Figures (1-4) and Table 1 are added as per the reviewer's suggestions.

Immunogenicity of MSCs and challenges in utilizing MSCs from different sources are included in page 20 in the revised manuscript.