

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 85298

**Title:** Huangqin decoction alleviates lipid metabolism disorders and insulin resistance in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease by triggering Sirt1/NF-κB pathway

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 02540514

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Chief Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Germany

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-04-27

**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-05-23 17:05

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-05-31 16:04

**Review time:** 7 Days and 22 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" 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 Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a paper with very thorough experiments showing the effect of HQD on NAFLD in a rat model and HepG2 cells. The results are very clear and deserve publication. I have some minor comments: 1. EX-527 was only applied to HepG2 cells and not to rats. The authors should explain why this animal group was not carried out (HFD + HQD + EX-527). It would strengthen the results and the mechanistic explanation of SIRT-1 action, if this animal group could be added to the experiments. 2. Especially the first part of the discussion is more introduction. Please shorten this part. 3. Fenofibrate is as good as HQD in all parameters. Given the fact that Fen acts on a different pathway, this should be discussed by the authors. 4. In the light of the Fenofibrate results: The sentence, that TCM is more suitable for treatment of NAFLD than monosubstances, is obviously wrong. The authors should omit that and discuss the fenofibrate results in comparison to the HQD results (see 3).

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**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 02519158

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** DSc, PharmD, PhD

**Professional title:** Assistant Lecturer, Lecturer, Teaching Assistant

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Poland

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-04-27

**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-06-15 08:04

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-06-23 20:25

**Review time:** 8 Days and 12 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" 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
Novelty of this manuscript	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
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	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This is a very interesting piece of work in which power of traditional, natural medicine was evidenced and presented. This study may be a starting point for experimental and clinical studies concerning reintroduction of traditional, natural drugs to the belonging role in authentic, complex medicine. For this reason, I recommend this article for publication in the World Journal of Gastroenterology.