



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 56016

**Title:** Herbal cake-partitioned Moxibustion inhibits colonic autophagy in Crohn's disease via phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase Classes signaling

**Reviewer's code:** 03724944

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** BSc

**Professional title:** Chief Technician

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

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

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**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-04-17 08:59

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**Review time:** 10 Days and 11 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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



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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

World Journal of Gastroenterology Manuscript NO: 56016 Title: Herbal cake-partitioned Moxibustion inhibits colonic autophagy in Crohn's Disease via PI3KCs signaling

The authors demonstrate that Herbal cake-partitioned Moxibustion (HM) ameliorated inflammation and colon damage in TNBS-induced rats Crohn's disease model. They show that rats treated with HM have reduced alterations of the colonic mucosa and an inhibition of autophagy by activating PI3KC1 / Akt1 / mTOR signaling pathway and inhibiting the VPS34-Beclin-1 protein complex in CD rats. This is an interesting study with a consistent number of data. However, my major concern regards the morphological method and findings.

**Material and method** It should be indicated what the acronym "CST" stands for. It should be specified that HM group consists of CD rats treated with moxa cones. What does "the gastric perfusion needle was slowly withdrawn from the gastric perfusion needle" mean? For transmission electron microscopy, it should be indicated the embedding agent used because generally for the dehydration of the samples is used, at increasing concentrations, either ethanol or acetone but not both. In addition, it should be indicated the thickness of the ultrathin sections, the number of samples analyzed with transmission electron microscopy and the brand of the electron microscope used.

**Results** The magnification of the images of Figure 1b should be increased in order to detect morphological changes described in the results. Figure 2: "ultrastructure" instead of "microstructure" is more appropriate for electron microscope images. Figure 4: it is difficult from the images to make a comparison between the morphological alterations of the colonic mucosa in the different groups and to recognize in them the histopathological observations reported in the results. As suggested for Figure 1, the images should be of a higher magnification.

**Discussion** In the discussion, the interesting description of the signaling pathways that



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regulate autophagy overshadows the findings of the work. So, in my opinion, discussion part should be rewritten in order to highlight the comparison of the results with the other observations.