

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Diabetes*

Manuscript NO: 87679

Title: Exploring the targets and molecular mechanism of glycyrrhetic acid against diabetic nephropathy based on network pharmacology and molecular docking

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02560127

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Pakistan

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-08-27

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-08-27 13:54

Reviewer performed review: 2023-09-04 08:29

Review time: 7 Days and 18 Hours

Scientific quality	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty 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 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

Scientific significance of the conclusion in 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 scientific significance
Language quality	<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
Conclusion	<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
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	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

Introduction: Author should add brief overview regarding the structural and functional aspects of the renal system and mechanism of diabetic nephropathy for the better understanding. It is suggested that author should write either diabetic kidney disease or diabetic nephropathy throughout the manuscript to avoid confusion and for better understanding. Some of the information is misleading for example: Glycyrrhetic acid (GA) is the product of the metabolism of glycyrrhetic acid into the blood by the liver. Glycyrrhizidine may protect the kidney of diabetic rats by inhibiting iron death and VEGF/AKT/ERK pathway[9]. Author must thoroughly proofread all the information written in the manuscript. Figure 1 is not at high resolution. It is difficult to understand the flowchart. Materials and methods Author should briefly write the significance of all the databases and tools used in the study. In section, 1.9.4. CCK8 method was used to detect the half inhibitory concentration of GA. Author should mention the full form of CCK8, explain the principle and mechanism of the assay and also include the reference of the previous study. In section, 2.7 Half inhibitory concentration of 2.8GA. Heading needs correction. Results Figures are not at high

resolution. Author must include clear and high resolution images and also write proper and detailed legends of all the figures.

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Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 04861666

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BSc, MSc, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-08-27

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-09-05 01:36

Reviewer performed review: 2023-09-06 08:59

Review time: 1 Day and 7 Hours

Scientific quality	<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
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	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In the current study, the authors have investigated the mechanism of glycyrrhetic acid (GA) in the treatment of diabetic nephropathy using network pharmacology and molecular docking methods, and they have experimentally verified their findings. While the research is of great significance, it does have several issues. Comments: 1. Fig 1: The flow chart can be renamed as a graphical abstract. 2. Cell Culture Section: 'penicilin' should be renamed as 'penicillin.' 3. In the 'Effect of GA on HK-2 Cell Cycle Induced by High Sugar Detected by Flow Cytometry' section, the sentence should be revised to: 'The stem cells were digested and collected. (Please check if this is correct).'

4. The image quality is not good. 5. There are too many places where there are no proper gaps between words.