

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Diabetes*

**Manuscript NO:** 88417

**Title:** Jianpi Gushen Huayu decoction ameliorated diabetic nephropathy through modulating metabolites in kidney, and inhibiting TLR4/NF- $\kappa$ B/NLR and JNK/ 8 pathways

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

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 06131948

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Teacher

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-09-24

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-09-24 08:44

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-09-25 14:10

**Review time:** 1 Day and 5 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" 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 Grade E: Do not publish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

<b>Creativity or innovation of 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" 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

Diabetic nephropathy is a serious complication of diabetes mellitus, making the search for drugs that could be used to treat it an important challenge. Comments: 1. In the introduction it is recommended to reword the sentence "... and Western drugs (e.g., antihypertensives) may cause side effects in DN patients", as the wording used is not correct and will not be understood by a wide range of readers. 2. It is recommended to correct the sentence "can invigorate the spleen, strengthen the kidneys, disperse blood stasis, and dredge collaterals, corresponding to the pathogenesis of DN", as it uses terms specific to traditional medicine, which will not be understood by a wide range of readers. 3. It is not clear from the materials and methods whether Huanglian Jiedu Decoction is a fixed combination. It is also recommended that the Latin names of medicinal plants, descriptions of the parts of these plants, and methods of extracting the active ingredients from them be described. It is not clear what is meant by leeches, and rhubarb (stir-fried

with wine). In the current form, the exact composition and methods of obtaining JPGS are not clear. What components are used to standardize and dose JPGS (low doses, high doses)? 4. I did not find Supplementary material. 5. In Figure 6C are the processed or original Western blotting results?

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**Reviewer's code:** 00629063

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** N/A

**Professional title:** N/A

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-09-24

**Reviewer chosen by:** Yu-Lu Chen

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-11-18 14:47

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-11-27 07:01

**Review time:** 8 Days and 16 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<b>Novelty of 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 novelty

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<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

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1 Title. Does the title reflect the main subject/hypothesis of the manuscript? - Yes, the title reflects the main subject/hypothesis of the manuscript. 2 Abstract. Does the abstract summarize and reflect the work described in the manuscript? - Yes, the abstract summarizes the contents of the manuscript quite nicely. 3 Key Words. Do the key words reflect the focus of the manuscript? Yes. 4 Background. Does the manuscript adequately describe the background, present status and significance of the study? -In my opinion, yes. However, controlling blood glucose levels, reducing blood pressure, and improving microcirculation can prevent diabetic nephropathy to a certain extent. In line 92, "the above treatments cannot impede the progression of DN." This needs to be expressed more rigorously. 5 Methods. Does the manuscript describe methods (e.g., experiments, data analysis, surveys, and clinical trials, etc.) in adequate detail? - Yes. The authors described the experiments and material details fully. 6 Results. Are the research

objectives achieved by the experiments used in this study? What are the contributions that the study has made for research progress in this field? - Yes. The authors experimentally evaluated the therapeutic effects and possible mechanisms of spleen-strengthening and kidney-stabilizing soup (JPGS) in mice with diabetic nephropathy and showed that JPGS significantly ameliorated renal injury, controlled inflammation and oxidative stress, and improved renal metabolites by regulating renal metabolites, decreasing TLR4/NF- $\kappa$ B/NLRP3-mediated inflammation, and inhibiting JNK/P38-mediated apoptosis, which resulted in improved diabetic nephropathy. This is an interesting finding. 7 Discussion. Does the manuscript interpret the findings adequately and appropriately, highlighting the key points concisely, clearly and logically? Are the findings and their applicability/relevance to the literature stated in a clear and definite manner? Is the discussion accurate and does it discuss the paper's scientific significance and/or relevance to clinical practice sufficiently? - Generally, yes. However, the discussion section can be appropriately streamlined by removing content that is not relevant to the results. 8 Illustrations and tables. Are the figures, diagrams, and tables sufficient, good quality and appropriately illustrative, with labeling of figures using arrows, asterisks, etc, and are the legends adequate and accurately reflective of the images/illustrations shown? - I did not notice any manipulations. 9 Biostatistics. Does the manuscript meet the requirements of biostatistics? - Yes. 10 Units. Does the manuscript meet the requirements of use of SI units? - Yes. 11 References. Does the manuscript appropriately cite the latest, important and authoritative references in the Introduction and Discussion sections? Does the author self-cite, omit, incorrectly cite and/or over-cite references? - I did not notice any incorrectly cited. 12 Quality of manuscript organization and presentation. Is the manuscript well, concisely and coherently organized and presented? Is the style, language and grammar accurate and appropriate? - Yes. 13 Research methods and reporting. Authors should have prepared



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their manuscripts according to BPG's standards for manuscript type and the appropriate topically-relevant category, as follows: (1) CARE Checklist (2013) - Case report; (2) CONSORT 2010 Statement - Clinical Trials study, Prospective study, Randomized Controlled trial, Randomized Clinical trial; (3) PRISMA 2009 Checklist - Evidence-Based Medicine, Systematic review, Meta-Analysis; (4) STROBE Statement - Case Control study, Observational study, Retrospective Cohort study; and (5) The ARRIVE Guidelines - Basic study. For (6) Letters to the Editor, the author(s) should have prepared the manuscript according to the appropriate research methods and reporting. Letters to the Editor will be critically evaluated and only letters with new important original or complementary information should be considered for publication. A Letter to the Editor that only recapitulates information published in the article(s) and states that more studies are needed is not acceptable? - Yes, the authors had provided the ARRIVE Guidelines. 14 Ethics statements. For all manuscripts involving human studies and/or animal experiments, author(s) must submit the related formal ethics documents that were reviewed and approved by their local ethical review committee. Did the manuscript meet the requirements of ethics? - I did not notice any ethics issues.