

I . This is an interesting study investigating the role of a traditional Chinese medicine Xiaojianzhong decoction in preventing the progression of MNNG-induced gastric precancerous lesions. The authors firstly analyzed the chemical components in Xiaojianzhong decoction. Then, by using a rat model, they showed that Xiaojianzhong decoction could ameliorate gastric mucosal pathological conditions in MNNG-induced GPL rats. Mechanistically, they found that Xiaojianzhong decoction exerted this protective role by regulating autophagy and glycolysis via PI3K/AKT/mTOR and p53/AMPK/ULK1 signaling pathways. This study is well designed. The writing is good. Here I have the following minor questions. (1) A major flaw in Chinese traditional medicine is the lack of precision. Since you have identified the main components of Xiaojianzhong decoction, it is necessary to perform experiments to see which one or which combination is the effective components conferring Xiaojianzhong decoction this protective effect in your study. (2) p53 is a master regulator of cellular metabolism, including autophagy and glycolysis (PMID: 33785447). However, in your introduction and discussion, there is little content to introduce or discuss the importance of p53-mediated metabolic regulation in your system. You need to add these contents. (3) All the WB figures need internal control band. (4) In the caption of figure 2, there should be a space between “liver,” and “kidney”.

Q1: A major flaw in Chinese traditional medicine is the lack of precision. Since you have identified the main components of Xiaojianzhong decoction, it is necessary to perform experiments to see which one or which combination is the effective components conferring Xiaojianzhong decoction this protective effect in your study.

A1: Your opinion has benefited us a lot. As you said, Chinese medicine lacks precision. We are very happy to use the monomer components contained in Xiaojianzhong Decoction to intervene on the GPL model in follow-up research, and conduct multiple groups Scientific analysis, in order to more accurately and specifically present the impact of a certain component on GPL gastric mucosal cells. At present, there are very limited experimental studies on the treatment of GPL by Xiaojianzhong Decoction. For the first time, we have explored the possible mechanism of Xiaojianzhong Decoction intervening in GPL. More detailed research will be carried out in the future. Q2: p53 is a master regulator of cellular metabolism, including autophagy and glycolysis (PMID: 33785447). However, in your introduction and discussion, there is little content to introduce or discuss the importance of p53-mediated metabolic regulation in your system. You need to add these contents.

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p53-mediated metabolic regulation in your system. You need to add these contents.

A2: First of all, thank you for this modification. As you said, p53 is extremely important in metabolic regulation. We have supplemented the corresponding mechanisms of p53 regulating metabolism, glycolysis and autophagy in the Discussion section. Also, thank you very much for your references, which have greatly benefited us and have cited this excellent literature.

Q3: All the WB figures need internal control band.

A3: Thank you very much for your careful review. The mistakes caused by negligence at that time have been corrected. In the new picture, you will see the supplementary WB internal reference band.

Q4: In the caption of figure 2, there should be a space between “liver,” and “kidney”.

A4: Thank you again for your careful and careful review of the manuscript. I have corrected the errors in Figure 2.

II. The article is within the scope of the journal, and deals with an interesting topic. It is well written and organized. His reading is fluent. Regarding the content, it is an original contribution. Likewise, it represents an advance in the area of knowledge. The article presents a well-designed experiment. The work methodology, the results and a discussion of them are presented. However, it should be improved in 2 aspects: a) The state of the art of the article should be expanded. b) The conclusions are very limited. The scientific contribution and a set of lines of future work must be indicated. c) In the discussion section, the description of the sales and limitations of the results obtained should be improved.

Q1: The state of the art of the article should be expanded.

A1: Thank you very much for this comment. We plan to add transcriptomics to the future research on Xiaojianzhong Tang's treatment of GPL. Transcriptomics is one of the most popular detection methods today, and it is also a very important tool for studying cells and phenotypes. In addition, in the follow-up research, we will continue to improve the experimental design, conduct more in-depth research to keep up with the current hotspots, and apply transcriptomics and metabolomics to our research. mechanism for a more in-depth and comprehensive study.

Q2: The conclusions are very limited. The scientific contribution and a set of lines of future work must be indicated.

A2: Your comments are greatly appreciated and we have supplemented the conclusions with the scientific contribution of the current study and future work. In the future, we will verify the current results through cell experiments, and use multi-omics to conduct extended research on the relevant mechanisms and signaling pathways of Xiaojianzhong Decoction in treating GPL.

Q3: In the discussion section, the description of the sales and limitations of the results obtained should be improved.

A3: Thank you for this valuable comment, we have analyzed the limitations of the current results and summarized them in the Discussion.

To Science editor: Thank you for your meticulous work, which has been revised based on your comments.

To Company editor-in-chief: Thank you for your meticulous work, which has been revised with your comments and literature citations.