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ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 11028

Title: Effect of Danshao Huaxian Capsule on the Expression of Gremlin and BMP-7 in Liver Fibrosis Rats

Reviewer code: 01810523

Science editor: Su-Xin Gou

Date sent for review: 2014-05-02 11:33

Date reviewed: 2014-05-07 01:31

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this manuscript, Zhao and colleagues reported protective effect of Chinese herb medicine DHC on the pathogenesis of liver fibrosis using a CCl4 induced liver fibrosis rat model. The authors concluded that the DHC effect is likely through its inhibition of TGF-beta and gremlin expressions, and its upregulation of BMP-7. Although the role and mechanism of gremlin and BMP-7 in liver fibrosis have been reported by several groups, the therapeutic potential of DHC in liver fibrosis is of interesting. Unfortunately, the manuscript is poorly written and difficult to understand, which raise many concerns of the reviewer.

1. The authors must provide statement that the experiments involve animals are approved by the institutional animal care and use committee.
2. The authors should have consulted a scientific writer/editor and got help on manuscript writing in English and data presentation in the Results section.
3. The manuscript should have been numbered on each page.
4. Inhibition of either gremlin or TGF-beta would result in amelioration of liver fibrosis. Hence, the major effect of DHC is likely through downregulation of TGF-beta; while the decreased gremlin could be secondary, given that gremlin could be regulated by TGF-beta signaling. In vitro experiment using isolated primary cells should be performed to address this question.
5. TGF-beta measurement in the liver tissue should be normalized by the tissue weight, not by the concentration of the solution.
6. What is the "Positive protein expression rate" in Tables 4 & 5, and how is it rated?
7. I am not convinced that the images in Figures 2 & 4 are all taken using 400x magnifying power. In addition, the location of the positive staining and whether it correlates with fibrosis in these figures should be indicated.



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ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 11028

Title: Effect of Danshao Huaxian Capsule on the Expression of Gremlin and BMP-7 in Liver Fibrosis Rats

Reviewer code: 00002314

Science editor: Su-Xin Gou

Date sent for review: 2014-05-02 11:33

Date reviewed: 2014-05-22 02:17

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting study. My suggestions: 1) it is important to explain why the two doses (8 and 16 times the clinical doses) were selected: what is the translational value of the study? 2) add a statement on ethical approval; 3) please add a scale bar on microscopic images; 4) the English style needs careful revision to improve clarity.