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Flat C, 23/F., Lucky Plaza,
315-321 Lockhart Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Ms: 3041

Title: Antinociceptive effect of berberine on visceral hypersensitivity in a rat model of irritable bowel syndrome

Reviewer code: 01801246

Science editor: j.l.wang@wjgnet.com

Date sent for review: 2013-04-05 01:07

Date reviewed: 2013-04-08 17:59

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 checked="" 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 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"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS:

The findings in the present study are novel and may interest readers in this field. However, there are some concerns in the manuscript. I have some suggestions to improve them. Comments: 1. Contents of the results section in the abstract are not enough to represent the findings of the present study. In addition, I do not think a rat model used in this study is always representative of pathophysiology of IBS. I strongly recommend authors to remake a structured abstract according to instructions to authors of this journal. Please revise the abstract to be more precise. 2. Why did authors select such a high dose of BBR to confirm its effects in their rat model? Kulkarni and Dhir (Eur J Pharmacol 2007;569:77-83.) have previously investigated the antidepressant-like effect of an acute administration of berberine at 5-20 mg/kg i.p. in the forced-swim and tail-suspension tests. 3. Anti-diarrhea effect of BBR might contribute to regulation of visceral sensitivity in the rat model. Is there any relationship between pain threshold of AWR and number of fecal pellets? 4. The NOS inhibitor did not completely attenuate the effect of BBR in this study. The rationale described in this manuscript is not enough to lead the conclusions. Authors should discuss more about the other potential mechanisms on the antinociceptive effect of BBR. 5. AWR score used in the present study is less objective assessment than abdominal EMG. Authors should describe some limitations of the present study in the discussion section. 6. Please add some symbols to indicate significant differences between the groups in each figure.



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ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Ms: 3041

Title: Antinociceptive effect of berberine on visceral hypersensitivity in a rat model of irritable bowel syndrome

Reviewer code: 02365147

Science editor: j.l.wang@wjgnet.com

Date sent for review: 2013-04-05 01:07

Date reviewed: 2013-04-20 18:35

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 checked="" 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 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)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS:

This is an interesting manuscript on anti-nociceptive effects of berberine in a animal model of visceral hypersensitivity. It was shown that berberine in this model has anti-nociceptive effects that appear to be mediated via NO. Items and remarks 1. The authors present the animal model as an IBS model, but in fact it is a model for visceral hypersensitivity. 2. colitis was induced by acetic acid and histology at day 2 and 7 was obtained. It will help to have more quantitative measures of inflammation in the various subgroups instead of only figure 1. 3. page 7 aminoguanidine group is mentioned in Mat and Methods section. The rationale should be given (first mentioned in discussion) 4. role of mast cells? quantitation of mast cells at day 2 and 7?