Reviewer's report

Title: Short hairpin RNA targeting 2B gene of coxsackievirus B3 exhibits potential antiviral effects both in vitro and in vivo

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Reviewer: Jae Hwan Nam

Reviewer's report:

The authors investigate the potential of a shRNA targeted at 2B gene of coxsackievirus B3 to suppress of viral replication in vitro and in vivo, and improvement of survival rate and histological pattern after CVB3 challenge by using recombinant lentivirus system expressing 2B targeted shRNA. Their data are clear to show their final decision which is that shRNA-2B is a potentially therapeutic agent for the treatment of enterovirus-induced diseases. In that data is OK. However, I concerned its novelty. As the authors already mentioned about previously published papers (Virus Genes 36:141, J Virol 79:8620 and so on…), previous papers already showed that recombinant lentivirus expressing shRNA against CVB3 is usefulness to treat enterovirus-mediated diseases. The authors mentioned the ability of 2B gene as target for RNAi technique. However, they already published about it. Only difference between this manuscript and previous papers is target region for shRNA.

Although there are weak points as mentioned above, their data are confirmed and supported previous reports, and work strategy, writing and discussion with data are reasonable. So I suggested the authors re-make this manuscript as ‘short communication or note’ format.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.