Reviewer's report

Title: The Mineralocorticoid Receptor Antagonist Eplerenone reduces Renal Interstitial Fibrosis after long-term Cyclosporine Treatment in Rat

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Reviewer: Zhiying Huang

Reviewer's report:

In current manuscript, the authors reported that the selective MR-antagonist EPL protects against renal epithelial cell loss and interstitial fibrosis in a long-term model (12 weeks) of CsA nephropathy. The overall study is well-performed. The results presented in the current manuscript are interesting and provide some beneficial results for patients treated with calcineurin inhibitors. However, I still have a few concerns before the manuscript can be accepted for publication:

1. The study design. Why the authors did not employed a eplerenone (EPL) alone group, which could explained the results which the higher plasmaldosterone and renin in the CsA+EPL were contributed by EPL.
2. The dose and duration. The authors should introduced the dosage of CsA and EPL in clinical use to support the 100mg/kg/d for EPL and 12 weeks for this study. And how to ensure each rat in CsA+EPL group had exposed the designated dose of EPL. (Please represent some evident, such as EPL content in diet, animal kept individually, daily (weekly) intake per animal, or blood concentration of EPL)
3. If the laboratory animals had free access to tap water is appropriate or not, the tap water had been disinfected or not, and related to the pneumonia in weaked rats treated with CsA and CsA+EPL?
4. Please add the original figure of western blotting analysis.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.