Author's response to reviews

Title: Drugs and herbs given to prevent hepatotoxicity of TB therapy: systematic review of ingredients and evaluation studies

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir/ Madam,

Please find attached our paper entitled, ‘Drugs and herbs given to prevent hepatotoxicity of TB therapy: systematic review of ingredients and evaluation studies’ for submission to BMC Public Health. The paper is the first attempt that we are aware of to conduct a systematic review to describe the ingredients of drugs and herbs used to protect the liver in patients taking anti-tuberculosis treatment, and to compare the evidence base for the policy against international standards.

Drugs to protect the liver are frequently prescribed in some countries as part of treatment for tuberculosis – but the biological rationale is not clear, they are expensive and may do harm. We think this systematic review will be of interest to BMC Public Health readers as the out of pocket cost of these additional drugs to patients in many countries is high and can contribute to treatment interruption.

We have chosen to publish in BioMedCentral as articles are available online rapidly and for free, which means readers in developing countries, particularly China where prescribing these drugs is common practice, will be able to access the paper easily.

We know of one potential reviewer for this paper:

Siyan Zhan, Evidence-Based Medicine Centre, School of Public Health, Peking University, Beijing: Siyan-zhan@bjmu.edu.cn

Professor Munir Pirmohamed, Professor of Pharmacology, University of Liverpool, UK: munirp@liverpool.ac.uk

We hope you will consider this paper for publication. We have not submitted the manuscript anywhere else. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Qin Liu (corresponding author), Paul Garner, Yang Wang, Binghua Huang, Helen Smith