Reviewer's report

Title: Pirfenidone inhibits TGF-beta1-induced over-expression of collagen type I and heat shock protein 47 in A549 cells

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Reviewer: Takahide Nagase

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General Comments

The aim of this study is to investigate the effects of pirfenidone on collagen type I and HSP47 expression in A549 cells. To perform this study, the authors assessed TGF-beta1-induced collagen type I and HSP47 expression in A549 cells in the absence or presence of pirfenidone. They conclude pirfenidone inhibited TGF-beta1-induced collagen type I and HSP47 expression in A549 cells, indicating anti-fibrotic effects of pirfenidone might be explained by this mechanism.

This manuscript is well-written and the scientific message is clear.

Minor Comments

In figure 5 a-d, the authors showed TGF-beta1-induced overexpression of fibronectin, a mesenchymal phenotypic marker (or EMT marker). Then, how were changes of cell shapes? Please explain or discuss this point.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'