Reviewer's report

Title: In Vivo Experimental intervertebral disc Degeneration Induced by Bleomycin in the Rhesus Monkey

Version: 4 Date: 26 August 2014

Reviewer: Dafu Chen

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a study about the intervertebral disc degeneration model, which was induced by injection of bleomycin into the subchondral bone adjacent to the lumbar IVDs of rhesus monkeys. The results demonstrated that it could result in mild, slowly progressive disc degeneration, which mimics the onset of human disc degeneration. To sum up, the animal model and the approach are interesting and could be clinically relevant by inducing a nutritional depletion of the adjacent IVDs of the vertebral body.

In my opinion, this manuscript has been prepared well for publishing.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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