Author's response to reviews

Title: Black tea extract prevents lipopolysaccharide-induced NF-kappaB signaling and attenuates dextran sulfate sodium-induced experimental colitis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor;

We would like to thank the reviewers for their useful comments on our manuscript. Our manuscript has been corrected as the reviewers recommended. We believe that these revised processes will significantly improve the priority score of our manuscript.

We have enclosed our revised manuscript by Song et al entitled “Black tea extract prevents lipopolysaccharide-induced NF-κB signaling and attenuates dextran sulfate sodium-induced experimental colitis” including new figures and a covering letter itemizing the modifications as point-by-point responses to the comments of the reviewers and editorial requests.

Thank you and the reviewers again for considering our manuscript to be published in **BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine**.

We look forward to receiving your answer soon.

Sincerely yours,

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Reviewer's report

Although authors have answered all the questions made by this reviewer, some of the suggestions have not followed by them:

- In Figure 1, I commented that only the dose of 100 ug of BTE was shown. The authors answered that other doses (lower and higher) were assayed. For this, I do not see any inconvenience in including representative bands from the other different concentrations assayed in this figure.

Reply: We added the new figure including representative bands from different concentration of BTE. Please refer to new figure 1A.

- I still think that the inclusion of representative figures regarding the histological assessment of the samples would be of great value for the quality of the study. In addition, the description of the main aspects of the colonic histology that are improved after BTE treatment would be also very interesting. Also, statistics in Figure 5 should be revised.

Reply: We added figures from representative histologic slides of CONT+H20, CONT+DSS and BTE+DSS groups. Please refer to new figure 5B.

Editorial requests

Please modify the statement regarding ethical approval to read as follows:

The institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the Chonnam National University Hospital, Gwangju, Korea approved this study, all methods conformed to US National Institutes of Health (NIH publication No. 86-23 revised 1985) guidelines?

Reply: We modified it as follows;

All animal protocols were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the Chonnam National University Hospital, Gwangju, Korea.
**** We added the error bars to original figure 3. And we substitute all original figures for new figures with qualitative improvement. Please refer to new attached figure files.