Reviewer’s report

Title: A water extract of Samchulkunbi-tang attenuates airway inflammation by inhibiting iNOS and MMP-9 activities in an ovalbumin-induced murine asthma model

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Reviewer: Hwa-Young Son

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The authors of this manuscript demonstrated that Samchulkunbi-tang water extract (SCTE) reduced the number of inflammatory cells, cytokines, and chemokines in bronchoalveolar lavage fluids and iNOS expression and MMP-9 activity in mouse lung tissue. And SCTE substantially inhibited OVA-induced inflammatory cell infiltration in lung tissue and goblet cell hyperplasia in the airway. This is a timely and significant study. I have some questions and comments on this manuscript as follows:

1. Some of yours results (cytokines levels, pro-inflammatory protein expression) suggest a possible dose-dependent effect of SCTE. Is there any reference of a dose-dependent effect of SCTE in vivo?

2. Histology: Scoring of PAS and inflammation: I appreciate the adding of the graphs for inflammation and mucus production. The way the inflammation and mucus production are scored should be added to material and method?

3. Please include limits of detection for IL-4 and IL-5 ELISA assays

4. The authors need to say something about SCTE relative to the positive control.

5. Added the scale bar in all photography pictures.

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'