Author's response to reviews

Title: Anti-atherosclerotic Function of Astragali Radix Extract: Downregulation of Adhesion Molecules in Vitro and in Vivo

Authors:

Yang You (petergemma@163.com)
Yan Duan (dy0113@sina.com)
Shao-wei Liu (lswly2000@163.com)
Xiao-lin Zhang (xiaolindianyu75@sina.com)
Xiu-li Zhang (zhangxiuli@dicp.ac.cn)
Jia-ao Feng (fengjiatao@dicp.ac.cn)
Cheng-hui Yan (yanch1029@163.com)
Ya-ling Han (yalinghan@gmail.com)

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

Attached please find the electronic submission of a manuscript entitled “Anti-atherosclerotic Function of Astragali Radix Extract: Downregulation of Adhesion Molecules in Vitro and in Vivo”. In the manuscript, we report our novel observations that Astragali Radix extract (ARE) can exert anti-inflammatory and anti-atherosclerotic effects by inhibiting the expression of adhesion molecules in vitro and in vivo. Cotreatment of murine endothelial cells (SVEC) with TNF-α and ARE resulted in dose- and time-dependent decreases in VCAM-1 and ICAM-1 accompanied by a significant decrease in phosphorylated-iκB expression and inhibition of NF-κB activation. Importantly, we find that oral administration of ARE resulted in downregulation of adhesion molecules and decreased expression of macrophages in the aortic endothelium of apoE^{-/-} mice. Furthermore, ARE could suppress the inflammatory reaction and inhibit the progression of atherosclerotic lesions in apoE^{-/-} mice. Therefore, we feel that this manuscript fits into the scope of complementary or alternative conventional therapies. We appreciate your consideration for publication.

All authors have read the manuscript and approved its submission to BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine. The manuscript, or any part of it, has not been published previously and is not being considered concurrently by another journal. We agree to pay the cost of color figure printing.

The address of the corresponding author is: Yaling Han, MD, PhD, Department of Cardiology, Shenyang Northern Hospital, 83 Wenhua Road, Shenyang 110840, China. Tel: 86-24-23922184, Fax: 86-24-23911006, Email: yalinghan@gmail.com.

Yours Sincerely,

Yaling Han