Reviewer's report

Title: Urine metabolic profiles changes of liver fibrosis induced by CCl4 in rats and intervention effects of Yi Guan Jian Decoction

Version: 1 Date: 26 September 2012

Reviewer: Jane CJ Chao

Reviewer's report:

This study investigated the effect of Yi Guan Jian Decoction (YGJD) on metabolic profiles in rats with CCl4-induced liver fibrosis. Several comments and suggestions are listed as the following:

Major revisions:

1. Please discuss the mechanism(s) of anti-fibrosis of YGJD in terms of the active ingredients of YGJD in the discussion section.

2. Please explain why urinary phenol level is related to flora metabolism in the discussion section.

Minor revisions:

3. Please mark the page number and adjust the line space consistently.

4. Please use the symbols consistently throughout the manuscript, such as “140~150g” vs “23°C-24°C”, “i.p.” vs “I.P”, “n” vs “N”, and “ml” vs “L”.

5. Please clarify the definition of the model rats which represent the rats in both CCl4 and YGJD model groups or only in CCl4 model group in the text and figures.

6. Please demonstrate the route of orally administration of YGJD, such as by mixing in the feed or by gavage in the methods section.

7. Please state the statistical analysis software used in the study.

8. Please specify the statistical analysis method used for the comparisons of the pathological grading in Table 1.

9. Please check the following sentence in the results section: “There are obvious differences in both control group and model group, while, the spectra are similar between control group and XYXD group.” Please identify what XYXD group is.

10. Please specify all the units in Table 2.

11. Please improve the resolution of all figures.

12. Please correct spelling, punctuation and grammar errors and polish the writing throughout the manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests'.