Reviewer's report

**Title:** Teng-Long-Bu-Zhong-Tang, a Chinese herbal formula, enhances anticancer effects of 5-Fluorouracil in CT26 colon carcinoma

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 22 February 2013

**Reviewer:** Christoph Ritter

**Reviewer's report:**

In the present manuscript the authors investigate the effect of a combination of traditional Chinese herbs on 5-FU cytotoxicity in an in vivo colon carcinoma xenograft mouse model. The findings suggest that the herbal formula supports 5-FU cytotoxicity and exhibits further antitumor characteristics by its own.

**Comments:**

The authors quantify immunohistochemistry data from tumor sections. As tumors are typically heterogeneous, typically several fields of a tumor tissue slide are investigated and cell counts are averaged. This should give a rather representative measure on the whole tissue. How many microscopic fields did the authors assess per slide?

In Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 6 the authors show immunohistochemistry data of protein expression of cell cycle proteins, XIAP, and surviving as well as cleaved PARP species. For the same reason stated above, this are certainly not the appropriate methods to quantify protein levels in this setting. Western Blot analyses are required to compensate for locally variable protein expression. The authors need to add conclusive Western Blot data to support their findings.

Statistical analysis labels have to be added to the figures and information on tumor numbers and statistical tests are required in the figure legends.

The manuscript needs some language editing for English grammar.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**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'