Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Katarina Hostanska

Reviewer's report:

Aim of the study was clear defined. Methods used at the present study were appropriate. Results were well presented in Figures. However, there are several questions, which need an explanation.

Minor essential revisions:

Characterization of the Chinese herbal formula. It consists from 8 different herbs. In the present study, there is only a poor description of this remedy. Commonly a TLC (chromatography) from the remedy is presented. How could be compared and characterized the different productions of the remedy? The authors need to present a TLC as supplementary informations.

Discussion

Further in the discussion it will be more important to describe the bioactive components and/or groups in these 8 different herbs and their possible effect regarding the cancer chemoprevention (as authors described e.g.by mistletoe), then description of the role of single herbs in TCM herbal preparations (monarch, minister etc). Including these missing informations, the article will be of interest for more researcher's groups.

I recommend authors to describe the cancer chemopreventive effects of single herbs (if such effects were already described; references) at least. Discussion will be more clear and compact.

The authors investigated apoptosis induction by remedy with different hallmarks and markers of apoptotic cell death (DNA fragmentation, caspases 3,8 and 9, gene expression PARP, XIAP, survivin, p16, p21, RB phosphorylation, senescence). In addition the effect of remedy alone and in combination with 5-FU on angiogenesis with determination of VEGF. Discussion of these results and conclusions were well balanced

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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