Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Banhabaekchulchunma-tang, a traditional herbal formula attenuates absolute ethanol-induced gastric injury by enhancing the antioxidant status

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 14 May 2013

**Reviewer:** Hwa-Young Son

**Reviewer’s report:**

The authors of this manuscript demonstrated that Banhabaekchulchunma-tang (BCT) attenuates absolute ethanol-induced gastric injury. This is a timely and significant study. However, I have some questions and comments on this manuscript as follows:

**Major comments**

1. In this study, authors evaluated the protective effects of BCT on gastric mucosal injury via its anti-oxidant property. Authors have used omeprazole as positive control drug. Omeprazole was considered as unsuitable drugs because it is proton pump inhibitor. The authors would demonstrate this issue.

2. Authors have only explained the effects of BCT using figures for gross finding and histology of gastric mucus. However, authors need to quantitative analysis to investigate the effect of BCT.

3. In gastric ulcer model, SOD activity is not significant between EtOH group and BCT group. This result should be explained in the manuscript.

4. In this study, the animals were received BCT at dose level of 400 mg/kg. Authors need to demonstrate the a comparison between the dosage administrated to the animals in this study and clinical dose in human.

5. The authors described a lengthy explanation in discussion section. The authors need to reduce unnecessary or repeated sentences. In particular, authors need to make two paragraphs including MDA and GSH description into one paragraph in discussion section.

**Minor comments**

1. Figures 2 and 3: Note magnification or scale bar
2. Page 4: Name of hers should be italic
3. References
   - No. 21: Title should be bold
   - No. 26 and 27: Page number check

**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'