Reviewer's report

Title: Efficacy and Safety of Fermented Turmeric Powder in Subjects with Elevated Alanine Transaminase Levels: a randomised controlled study

Version: 3 Date: 23 October 2012

Reviewer: Yi-Hung Chen

Reviewer's report:

This study aims to investigate the effect of fermented turmeric powder (FTP) on liver function in subjects with elevated alanine transaminase (ALT) levels. A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial was conducted. Sixty subjects who were not HBV or HCV carrier but with mild to moderate elevated ALT levels were randomised to receive FTP 3.0 g per day or placebo 3.0 g per day for 12 weeks. The results revealed that the FTP group showed a significant reduction in ALT levels after 12 weeks of treatment compared with the placebo group (p=0.019). There was also observed that the serum AST levels were significantly reduce in the FTP group than placebo group (p=0.02).

The study is straightforward and is of clinical significance. I have only 3 questions.

Discretionary revision

When sample size calculation was performed, why 10.2 IU/L was considered a clinically relevant difference between the two groups?

What is the component of placebo capsule?

Is there any effort made to keep the FTP quality consistent during the 12-week?

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.