Author's response to reviews

Title: Regulation of podocalyxin expression in the kidney of streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats with Chinese herbs (Yishen capsule)

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March 15, 2013

Tom Rowles PhD
Executive Editor
BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Dear Dr. Tom Bowles:

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to revise this manuscript. We felt that the comments from both editors and referees are valuable for us and we have completed the revision according to these comments. The followings are the point-by-point response to the concerns.

Editorial comments:

- Thank you for responding to our query regarding your reference to your formulation being clinically effective. We would only consider a formulation or treatment to be 'clinically effective' if it were shown to be so in properly controlled clinical trials. We would therefore ask you to remove any reference to the clinical effectiveness of your formulation from your abstract and manuscript.

We have removed the word of "clinically effective in both abstract and manuscript.

Reviewer 1:

Minor Essential Revisions

One concern is if it is possible to quantify the deduction of foot process or broadt of GBM?
We think that the comment is related to Figure 5 of electron microscope. Since the figure is to show the widening of space, it has some difficulty to quantify the amount of foot process such as amount of foot process may not reduce but the length of foot process may shorten. In addition, the study focussed on the foot process and podocalyxin. The breadth of GBM was not investigated in the study. Although we believe that this herbal formulation will attenuate the breadth of GBM in DN, it needs further investigation.

Reviewer 2:
Discretionary Revisions
Analytical method and software of RT-PCR and immunofluorescence would be added if possible.

We have included the analytical method and software to analyse RT-PCR and immunofluorescence image.

Reviewer 3:
Thank you for the comment.

Sincerely yours,
Jingai Fang
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