Reviewer’s report

Title: Long-term effect of three Tiao-Bu Fei-Shen therapies on NF-kappaB/TGF-beta1/smad2 signaling in rats with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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Reviewer: Azadeh Manayi

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript entitled “Long-term effect of three Tiao-Bu Fei-Shen therapies on NF-κB/TGF-β1/smad2 signaling in rats with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease” tested the effects of some Chinese traditional medicines against COPD and calculated some biological factors and lung morphology in rats. In the review of the manuscript some points need to attend for improvement of the manuscript which are mentioned as following.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1- Dose of plants and aminophylline administered to animals did not describe how obtained? Why lower or higher dose did not administered?
2- It is not clearly described in the manuscript that all animals received bacterial solution in addition to tobacco smoke. Please clarify this subject in the methods part.

Minor Essential Revisions
1- Abstract, line 3 of method part “was” have to replace with “were”.
2- Abstract, line 5 of methods please check that “8” stands for what? Better to replace it with “IL-8”.
3- Abstract, line 4 of result part replace “significant” with “significantly”.
4- The words “qi” and “yin” in the manuscript stand for what words? It is better to explain them.
5- in the first paragraph of introduction the sentence “inflammatory injury and repair and airway remodeling in COPD by activating Smad2” better to replace with “inflammatory injury and repair as well as airway remodeling in COPD by activating Smad2”.
6- The name of the bacteria should be in italic form: Klebsiella pneumonia.
7- In the methods part, preparation of COPD: “All rats arrived at the animal facility of the laboratory seven days before the experiment, were housed in the individually…” replace with “All rats arrived at the animal facility of the laboratory seven days before the experiment, they were housed in the individually…”.
8- The country of the tobacco smoke have to mention in the manuscript.
9- Last sentence of the preparation of COPD in the methods part, sentence started with the number which have to be for example with “one hundred µL” or
rewrite in a different way.

10- In the methods, administration part: concentration of the drugs have to correct for example “Bufei Jianpi granule (4.84 g•kg-1•d-1)” to “Bufei Jianpi granule (4.84 g/kg-1/d-1)”.

11- All the plant scientific names should be in italic form in the manuscript, for example: “Astragalus propinquus”.

12- The city of the apparatus which used in the study have to mention in the manuscript as well as their company and country.

13- Last sentence of morphology part in methods started with number which have to replace with this one “Four bronchial wall thickness were measured in each slice and averaged”.

14- Please explain “PBS” and “GAPDH” abbreviations in the text when they are appear for the first time.

15- In the result part, cytokines, second paragraph after “At week 32” following word “The” is in capital that should be corrected. In this sentence two p value reported which are not clear related to what parameters.

16- Same as above in the results, Phosphorylation of Nuclear Factor #B and Inhibitor of #B# part, last sentence “The” is in capital and the p values are not clearly related to the parameters which better use “respectively” at the end of the sentence to clear that they are in the order. In the Expressions of TGF-#1mRNA and Smad2 mRNA part also this happened which have to be corrected.

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

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