Reviewer’s report

Title: An-jun-ning, a traditional herbal formula, attenuates spontaneous withdrawal symptoms via modulation of the dopamine system in morphine-dependent rats

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Reviewer: Fabricio Pamplona

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The article describes that a traditional Chinese herbal medicine reduces two parameters of opioid withdrawal syndrome in rats, along with alterations in the dopaminergic system in the brain. The statistical analysis and data evaluation seems to correct and the results are of relevance to those studying traditional Chinese medicine. However, the scientific advance provided by this study is rather limited, since the intervention is constituted of a complex herbal mixture, and therefore, no mechanism of action can be attributed to it. I recommend publication for the potential interest of those studying or applying traditional Chinese medicine, although a clinical study using human subjects would be way more informative than the current one. Before publication, please improve the English language used in the study, correct the scientific names in Table 1 and provide a better study justification than the one mentioned: "Traditional Chinese medicines (TCM) have long been used to treat opioid addiction because the 19th Century and many prescriptions were revealed to have ideal therapeutic effects"

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.