Reviewer's report

Title: Naja naja atra venom ameliorates pulmonary fibrosis by inhibiting inflammatory response and oxidative stress

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Reviewer: Masaki Fujita

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Qin and colleagues have reported an interesting manuscript of new treatment in pulmonary fibrosis. They treated bleomycin- and LPS-induced pulmonary fibrosis model using Naja naja atra venom (NNAV). They found that NNAV attenuated pulmonary fibrosis and the mechanism was inhibited inflammatory response and oxidative stress. Their concept was very unique and the data were notable.

However, reviewer concerned the several issues.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Authors described that Naja naja atra venom (NNAV) was purchased from Yu Jiang, Jiangxi Province, China. Was it certified materials? How did it purified? Did it contain any additives?

2. Authors heated NNAV at 100°C for 10 min. Why did they heat it? Is NNAV is heatable? How about using naïve NNAV in this model?

3. They published several papers using snake toxin and showed anti-inflammatory effect in usually arthritis model. It might contribute to antinociceptive effects of snake toxin. Usually, poisonous snake bite induces severe inflammation. What caused difference between human cases and the present data? Please describe in discussion section.

4. Some snake toxin has an anticoagulant property (Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2001 Jun 19;98(13):7230-4). Since anticoagulant therapy might have a benefit for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (Chest. 2005 Sep;128(3):1475-82), the role of NNAV on coagulation system should be discussed.

Minor Essential Revisions

5. Several mistypes were observed. (eg P9 Effects o)

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'