Reviewer's report

Title: Huachansu injection (HCS) inhibits metastasis of pancreatic cancer in mice model of human tumor xenograft

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Reviewer: Wei Tang

Reviewer's report:

Huachansu injection (HCS), as a water-soluble preparation isolated from toad skin, has been widely used in China and other Asian countries for treating malignant tumors. In the current study, the authors investigated the anti-metastasis effects of HCS on advanced pancreatic cancer. They found that HCS could inhibit the progression of advanced pancreatic cancer with liver metastasis through down-regulating the expression of VEGF, MMP-2 and MMP-9. In general, these findings might be useful for the treatment of pancreatic cancer. However, the current study cannot be published and there are some essential revisions that should be addressed.

1. In “Introduction” section, the purpose of the current study is unclear. Please add some detailed contents including the current therapy of pancreatic cancer, the reports on HCS anti-pancreatic-cancer, and the mechanisms of pancreatic cancer metastasis.

2. There is lack of detailed pathway on the mechanisms of HCS anti-pancreatic-cancer metastasis in the current study.

3. It should be better if delete the abbreviation of Huachansu injection or (HCS) in the title.

4. The dosage units of Huachansu injection are not unified. Please revise them.

5. There are some small errors should be attention including spelling, punctuation and spaces. Moreover, it should be better if the manuscript will be proofread by native English speakers.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.