Author's response to reviews

Title: Protective effect of Xuebijing injection on paraquat-induced pulmonary injury via down-regulating the expression of p38 MAPK

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The Biomed Central Editorial Team

Object: MS: 1911903894115370-Protective effect of Xuebijing injection on paraquat-induced pulmonary injury via down-regulating the expression of p38 MAPK in rats Prof Liu Ming-wei et al.

Thank you for consideration of our manuscript for publication in your journal. We have reviewed the above manuscript according to your reviewer’s comments.

Reviewer # (HONG JIANG).

Major points:

1. The dose of paraquat: in abstract, the dose of paraquat was illustrated as 35mg/kg, which was not consistent with the dose mentioned in the 5th paragraph of discussion. Why?

Response: This was an error and has been corrected. The experimental dose of paraquat was 30 mg/kg. On page 3, line 10 and page 10, line 5, we change dose of paraquat “35 mg/kg” to “30mg/kg”.

2. In the 11th paragraph in discussion, the demonstrations were that paraquat up-regulated Nrf2 and HIF-1alpha expression via increasing NF-KB. Xuebijing treatment down-regulated Nrf2 and HIF-1alpha via the reduction of the increase in NF-KB and MAPK activity. However, they were not consistent with the results in figure 3 since the protein level of Nrf2 was increased by Xuebijing according to western blot. Furthermore, they were different from the illustrations in chart of mechanism in figure 10. Why?
Response

This was an error and has been corrected. According to your comments and our experiments, we change “Paraquat up-regulated Nrf2 and HIF-1alpha expression via increasing NF-KB and MAPK activity. Xuebijing treatment down-regulated Nrf2 and HIF-1alpha via the reduction of the increase in NF-KB and MAPK activity.” to “Paraquat down-regulated Nrf2 expression via increasing NF-κB, HIF-1α and MAPK activity, increased ROS activity, and inhibited glutathione activity. Xuebijing treatment up-regulated Nrf2 expression via the reduction of the increase in NF-κB, HIF-1α and MAPK activity,” in the 11th paragraph in discussion, on page 23, line 20-22 and page 24, line 1.

3. The role of HIF-1alpha should be added into figure 10.

Response

The role of HIF-1alpha have been added into figure 10.

Minor point

1. The description of acute lung injury score in table 1 should be reorganized to make it clearer.

Response

The description of acute lung injury score in table 1 has been reorganized to make it clearer on page 37.