Reviewer’s report

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

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Reviewer: HONG JIANG

Reviewer’s report:

I read the revised manuscript entitled “Protective effect of Xuebijing injection on paraquat-induced pulmonary injury via down-regulating the expression of p38 MAPK in rats”. Some issues remain to be clarified.

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

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

Major compulsory revision
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: It does not need to be sent to a statistician.
Declaration: No competing interests.