Reviewer's report

Title: An Ayurvedic herbal food supplement (MAK5) restores decreased immune functions in aged mice

Version: 1 Date: 13 October 2004

Reviewer: Takuji Tanaka

Reviewer's report:

General comment:
This manuscript describes that intragastric intubation of Maharishi Amrir Kalash (MAK5) can restore the immune function in the aged mice. Overall, there is some interesting information in the manuscript. However, the authors need to expand on some background information and explanations. If so, this work will have more impact. Some extensive treatment should required before acceptance.

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Detailed comments:
1. First, the authors need to change the TITLE to more appropriate and attractive one. An Ayurvedic herbal food supplement (MAK5)? may be not correct.
2. The "Introduction" section should include some background information and explanations of MAK4 and MAK5. Also, the authors need to describe the components of MAK4 and MAK5, and their possible active compound(s) responsible for the biological function mentioned.
3. The authors should discuss the reason for lack of dose-dependency of MAK5.
4. In the Discussion section, the authors can compare the results in the present work to those in young mice (cited in Ref. 27-29) and discuss. Also, the authors should discuss the mechanism and importance of NO production by MAK5 in conjunction with cancer chemoprevention, because iNOS is known to be one of the good targets for cancer chemoprevention.

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Minor comments:
1. Page 2, Abstract, Background: The sentence is likely ?Aim?, so it should be rewritten.
2. Page 2, Abstract, Results: line 2 from the bottom: ?100 mg/kg? should be ?200 mg/kg?.
4. page 14, line 8: ?age mice? can be read ?aged mice?.
5. Figure 2: Is there significance between ?Old-Control? and ?Young-Control??
6. The English needs improvement.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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: Yes
Declaration of competing interests:

None