Reviewer's report

Title: Healing Potential of Picrorhiza kurroa (Scrophulariaceae) rhizomes against indomethacin-induced gastric ulceration: an experimental evaluation

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Reviewer: Shinichi Kato

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript addresses the beneficial effect of the methanol extract of Picrorhiza kurroa rhizomes (PK) on indomethacin-induced gastric ulceration in rats. The protective effect of PK on gastric ulcerogenic response to indomethacin is clear, but there are several unacceptable problems in this manuscript.

1. The abstract is awfully long. The authors should abridge the abstract.

2. The authors showed in figure 1 that the gastric score has been increased until 3 days after the administration of indomethacin. So, this period (until 3 days) is considered to be a progressive process of gastric ulcer but not healing process. And also, there are significant differences in the ulcer scores at day 3 of each group. Thus, the authors should begin dosing test drugs from 3 days after the administration of indomethacin to examine the healing effect.

3. The authors should show the effect of PK and omeprazole on gastric acid secretion. Omeprazole is a strong inhibitor of acid secretion and the effect of this agent observed in this study may also be associated with inhibition of acid secretion. So, it is possible that PK also may affect the acid secretion.

4. It is known that the administration of indomethacin suppressed prostaglandin synthesis for several hours in rats. However, the authors showed in this study that the prostaglandin synthesis was significantly suppressed even at 3 days after the administration of indomethacin. So, this reviewer is concerned that the inhibitory effect of indomethacin on prostaglandin synthesis is too long.

5. Why did the authors focus on only EGF in this study? Relation to other growth factors, such as VEGF and FGF etc?

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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.