Reviewer's report

Title: Anti-tumor effect of Liqi, a Traditional Chinese Medicine prescription, in tumor bearing mice

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Reviewer: Jong-hwei Pang

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Author needs to explain their experimental designs such as:
   - why three different animal models?
   - why data were collected at different time period (day 12 & 21)?
   - why cell cycle was studied only for SGC-7901?
   - no dose study for Figure 1?

2. The inhibition of tumor growth in nude mice with destructed immune functions by Liqi could reach 38.69% that was similar to two other animal models with normal immune functions (34.54% and 42.54%). Does it mean that the anti-tumor effect of Liqi is not involved very much with the immune responses? The result in Fig. 1 might be simply against what the author claimed in this manuscript.

3. As we know that Immune-related anti-tumor reaction involves the induction of apoptosis, however, in Table 3, data showed no subG1 (apoptotic cells). Why?
   - By the way, the data in Table 3 was indeed the opposite to what author discussed in the manuscript.

4. It is better and more meaningful to measure the IL-2 and TNF-alpha activities directly from tissues, not after the simulation by Con A or LPS.

5. It is better that data from normal control should be added to Figure 4, 5 and 6.

6. How to rule out the possibility that LDH may also be released from effector cells, especially the ratio of effector cells: target cells is as high as 100:1.

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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.