Reviewer’s report

Title: Hyperbaric oxygen treatment of spinal cord injury in rat model

Version: 1 Date: 06 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Siew-Na Lim

Reviewer’s report:

In general, the authors have responded to the questions raised. A few issues remain:

1. Since this paper only focused on serum of SOD and MDA, and there was no quantification of the histopathological results, the author could not conclude that there was less cystic degeneration of spinal cord in SCI-HBO rats, in both the abstract and results sections. At least, the authors should avoid using the term "significantly" in the result section.

2. If HBO treatment at the earliest time point (within 24 hours) resulted in a better therapeutic effect, why the authors did not use this time window for the subsequent study? At least, the reason should be mentioned in the discussion.

3. A minor point, there should be space between "10and20 days" in the second line of the discussion section.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal