Reviewer's report

Title: Structural and functional changes that persist in a segmental challenge model of bleomycin-induced pulmonary fibrosis

Version: 2
Date: 11 May 2015
Reviewer: nong J zhang

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Major Compulsory Revisions

Seven weeks’ observation is not enough to say that the fibrosis is “persist”. Modify the title.

The authors’ question was arisen mainly from a review published in 2013 (ref 4 in this manuscript), some other newer original publications, where the elegant works over a longer observation time in regard to lung function and structure in BLM-challenged mice had already been done, were not referred to (e.g. Limjunyawong N, et al. 2014 and ref 30 in this manuscript, etc.); therefore, the questions posed by the authors in the Introduction as well as in the Discussion were not adequately defined.

The limitations of the work need to be stated.

- Minor Essential Revisions

Section Methods, Paragraph TGF-#1 ELISA: add full stop.

Section Result, paragraph Fibrotic remodelling changes present in BLM-treated segments up to 7 weeks post-injury: last paragraph, last sentence, delete “controls” or write as the following: Correspondingly, the airspace percentage was significantly reduced in the BLM-treated segments, compared to saline-treated control segments.

Captions for Figure 6 and 7 are not matched.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests