Reviewer's report

Title: Fucoidan attenuates radioiodine-induced salivary gland dysfunction in mice

Version: 1 Date: 15 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Gulshan Sunavala-Dossabhoy

Reviewer's report:

This is a revised article. The authors have addressed most of the concerns, but some doubts remain. They are below.

1. The authors should understand that control groups are a necessity. In this reviewer's opinion, the control fucoidan-treated group should have been included in this study.

2. The authors state, "We normalized the mean value of normal group to 100. Accordingly, the values of the other groups are normalized to the ratio of the average value to normal group relatively." It is unclear why the raw data was not plotted. Rather than normalizing the results to 'control at 2 weeks', please include mean+-SD for each individual group.

3. Histological features such as vacuoles cannot be appreciated in H and E images provided. Please include high resolution and higher magnification images.

4. Please note that there was no evaluation thyroid cancer in this paper to confirm or refute the claim about fucoidan+RI. Therefore, it will be prudent to discuss this issue.

5. Staining of tissues at all time-periods is not shown in the figures. In legends of figures 2 and 3, state the time post-RI for the images shown.

6. Results of H and E, Alcian Blue, and Masson's trichrome should reference figure 2 (not figure 3).

7. More recent references on RI and salivary hypofunction can be included.
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.

No

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

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