Reviewer's report

**Title:** Yi Qi Qing Re Gao Formula Ameliorates Puromycin Aminonucleoside-induced Nephrosis by Suppressing Inflammation and Apoptosis

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 17 March 2015

**Reviewer:** ZHAOHONG CHEN

**Reviewer's report:**

It is interesting paper, indicating therapeutic effects of YQQRG and clarifying the mechanism of its anti inflammation and anti apoptosis effect on PAN nephrosis. The data are globally convincing. However, It is unclear what the molecular target (receptor) is in podocytes? All the analyzed pathways may be secondary responses (adaptation) of podocytes to injury.

**Major comments:**
1. PAN can induce either minimal change disease (MCD) or focal segmental glomerular sclerosis (FSGS) depending on the dose of treatment. It is important to know the exact disease process of the PAN rat model described by the authors in order to understand the role of in the reduction of proteinuria. Since YQQRG could potentially improve PAN-induced nephrosis by decreasing podocyte apoptosis. It is important to show the PAS staining of kidney tissue to see whether there is significant focal sclerosis to suggest FSGS rather than MCD.
2. Glomerular filtration rate need to be measured in the animals to be certain that the reason for the reduction in proteinuria is not due to decreased GFR.

**Minor**
1. Figure 8 is almost unreadable
2. The magnification of the top row in figure 9 seems inconsistent

**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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests’ below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below