Reviewer's report

Title: Xia-yu-xue decoction (XYXD) reduces carbon tetrachloride (CCl4)-induced liver fibrosis through inhibition hepatic stellate cell activation by targeting NF-kappaB and TGFbeta1 signaling pathways

Version: 3 Date: 18 April 2015

Reviewer: Fei Zhu

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Minor Essential Revisions

1. The authors reported that xia-yu-xue decoction (XYXD) reduces carbon tetrachloride (CCl4)-induced liver fibrosis. In line 57, it was reported that XYXD could regulate the balance of MMPs/TIMPs in KCs [7] and in pig serum induced liver fibrosis [8]. This section was confused.

2. In the methods, HSCs were serum starved for 12 h, the GFP-Col-HSCs first treated with XYXD (5, 25 ug/ml) for 1 hour. However, Zhang et al. reported that XYXD (50 µg/mL) suppressed the activation of HSCs and reversed the myofibroblastic HSCs into quiescent.

The authors did not explain the medical measurement of XYXD in detail.

3. All significantly results should be marked as P<0.05 or P<0.01.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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