Reviewer’s report

Title: Protective effects of chebulic acid on alveolar epithelial damage induced by urban particulate matter

Version: 0 Date: 26 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Sudeep Gautam

Reviewer’s report:

The information retrieved from this study is significant in understanding the role of Chebulic acid in alveolar epithelial damage induced by urban particulate matter (UPM) and hence warrants publication in "BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine". There are only several minor aspects (outlined below) the authors could consider to add to improve the study.

1. The manuscript has some typos errors which need to be rectified in the text of the entire manuscript. Please also correct the Title of the manuscript. Authors should be performed the Densitometry analysis for figure-4

2. Statistical analysis should be verified. It is not clear how the measurements are compared between groups. What are a, b, c, ab, bc etc in the figures. Please, revise carefully the statistic symbols and the level of significance. No statistical analysis was performed for figure-5.

3. The authors should address the possible mechanism of Chebulic acid (CA) responsible for suppression of ROS levels. The authors might analyze the expression of NADPH oxidase in NCI-H411 cells.

4. For the measurement of ROS, UPM condition (10 μg/mL for 24 h) was used but for the rest of the experiments UPM condition (100 μg/mL for 6 h) were used in the study. Why?

5. What was the purity of Chebulic acid. How was it used? What media was used to dissolve Chebulic acid? What was the final concentration of media? How were the control cells treated? Please add this information in the manuscript.

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

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