Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effects of Panax notoginseng saponins on severe acute pancreatitis through the regulation of mTOR/Akt and caspase-3 signaling pathway by upregulating miR-181b expression in rats

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Author’s response to reviews:

The Biomed Central Editorial Team

Thank you for consideration of our manuscript for publication in your journal.

We have reviewed the above manuscript according to your reviewer’s comments.

Responses to the comments of Reviewer #1

1. In title page, the authors’ names should be revised, for example, the name of first author and corresponding author is Ming-wei Liu, but not Liu Ming-wei; Liu is last name.
The authors' names have been revised as the reviewer indicates..

2. In Figures 2 and 4 and 6, the LC3-I expression should also be shown and the ratio of LC3-II/LC3-I should be measured.

The LC3-I expression has been shown and the ratio of LC3-II/LC3-I has been measured in Figures 2 and 4 and 6 as the reviewer indicates..

3. How about the survival rate in rats after taurocholate-induced SAP? It should be mentioned in the Results.

The survival rate in rats after taurocholate-induced SAP have been added in the Results as the reviewer indicates.

4. The scales in the images of Figures 3 and 7 and 8 and 9 and 12 are not consistent. The real scale bar should be inserted in the images of these figures, but not just described the magnification in the legends.

The real scale bar has been inserted in the images of Figures 3 and 7 and 8 and 9 and 12 as the reviewer indicates.

5. In Figure 6, the total mTOR and Akt protein expressions should also be shown and the ratio of total form/phosphorylated form should be measured.

The total mTOR and Akt protein expressions have been shown and the ratio of total form/phosphorylated form has been measured as the reviewer indicates.

6. In Figure 8, the immunohistochemistry for caspase-3 and Bcl-2 is really not convincing. The images are awful. They should be revised.

The immunohistochemistry for caspase-3 and Bcl-2 have been revised in Figure 8 as the reviewer indicates.

7. In Figure 9, the images for TUNEL analysis are also not convincing. Where are the TUNEL-positive cells? It should be revised.
The images for TUNEL analysis have been revised in Figure 9 as the reviewer indicates.

Responses to the comments of Reviewer #2

Rahul Deshmukh, M.S., Ph. D (Reviewer 2): The authors have touched an important topic since we need better and safer therapeutic agents for severe acute pancreatitis. Natural compounds play major role in drug design and discovery and could be helpful in designing novel drugs for severe acute pancreatitis. This manuscript could be of some help to the readers that are interested in finding out the exact mechanism of anti-pancreatitis effects of Panax notoginseng saponins. The authors have completed sufficient experiments with proper controls. Their conclusions are based on the experimental data obtained, therefore, this manuscript could be accepted for publication. Thank you.

Discretionary Revisions

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