Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 22 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Rahul Deshmukh

Reviewer's report:

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.

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?
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Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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Acceptable
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