Author’s response to reviews

Title: Fructus Ligustri Lucidi Modulates Estrogen Receptor Expression With No Uterotrophic Effect in Ovariectomized Rats

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Author’s response to reviews:

Response Letter
The Editor,
BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

No. BCAM-D-16-01012R2

Dear Editor,
We thank the editor and expert reviewers for considering our submission positively and allowing us to submit the revised manuscript. Now we have finished all the required revisions, and changes are shown below. If further concerns are rising, please feel free to contact us.

Regards

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Fructus Ligustri Lucidi Modulates Estrogen Receptor Expression with No Uterotrophic Effect in Ovariectomized Rats
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Response to editor comments:

Question 1. Please change the Materials and Methods heading to Methods.

Response: Thanks. We have changed the “Materials and Methods” heading to “Methods” in the revised version. (Methods section, line 12, page 5).

Question 2. Please include the email addresses for all authors on the title page. The corresponding author should still be indicated.

Response: Thanks. We have added the email addresses for all authors on the title page, and also shown as below. (Page 2).

All the co-authors’ email address

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Question 3. Please clarify which animal handling guidelines were followed regarding the animals used in this study.

Response: Thanks. We have clarified the animal handling guidelines which were followed regarding the animals used in this study in the revised version. (Declarations section, line 17-26, page 13).

All procedures in this study were performed in accordance with the “Guidelines for Experimental Animal Care and Use” from the Animal Care Committee of BUCM, Beijing, China. The protocol was approved by the Animal Care Committee of BUCM, Beijing, China.

Question 4. Please include all details of the anesthesia and euthanasia methods used in this study in a separate paragraph in the Methods section, this is to allow for full transparency.

Response: Thanks. We have added the details of the anesthesia and euthanasia methods used in this study in a separate paragraph in the Methods section. (Methods section, line 25-32, page 6).

After 12 weeks of administration, rats were anesthetized by intraperitoneal injection with 1% pentobarbital sodium (0.4 ml/100 g, i.p.). Subsequently, blood was collected from the heart by puncture. Then the rats were sacrificed by cervical dislocation. After that, the uteri, femurs and tibias were harvested for the following experiments.
Question 5. Please remove the funding information from the Acknowledgements and include it in the Funding section instead. If you have no further acknowledgements please put “Not Applicable” in the Acknowledgements section.

Response: Thanks. We have removed the funding information from the Acknowledgements and included it in the Funding section instead, and put “Not Applicable” in the Acknowledgements section. (Declarations section, line 11-14, page 13).

Question 6. Please represent authors' names using their initials, not their full name, in the Authors’ Contributions section. If there are any duplicated initials, please differentiate them to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors.

Response: Thanks. We have used initials in the Authors’ Contributions section, and have differentiated the duplicated initials to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors. (Declarations section, line 1-9, page 14).

Question 7. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of most of the authors, as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to one aspect of the study, alone, does not usually justify authorship.

Response: Thanks. We have improved the contributions of the authors in the Authors’ Contributions section. (Declarations section, line 1-9, page 14).

YQT and CL designed and conducted most of animal experiments and drafted the manuscript. XJS, YiL and XTW conducted immunohistochemical experiments. YBG, LLW and RFM conducted western blot and analysed experimental results. JZN and MF interpreted the results. DWZ and YuL conceived the experiments and revised the manuscript. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

Question 8. The Availability of data and materials section refers to the raw data used in your study and presenting tables and figures is not sufficient to state that all data is contained within the manuscript and additional files. Please only use this statement if you have indeed provided all raw data on which your study is based.

Response: Thanks. We have revised the statement in the Availability of data and materials section according to your suggestions. (Declarations section, line 36-40, page 13).

The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Question 9. Please remove any supplementary files which you do not want published, as they are no longer required at this stage.
Response: Thanks. We have removed the supplementary files which we do not want published.

Question 10. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response: Thanks. We have uploaded the manuscript, tables, figures, and additional files as a single, final, clean version.

Response to reviewer reports:

Man Sau Wong (Reviewer 3): The overall flow is good now. There are still some typo and grammar mistakes needs to be fixed, which needs to be double checked before publishing. Any abbreviations used should have it full name spell out at the first time.

Response: Thanks for your comments. We have revised the typo and grammar mistakes in the revised version.