Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 29 May 2017

Reviewer: Man Sau Wong

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript describes the effect of FLL on regulating the bone and uterus estrogen receptor expression levels in OVX rats. Generally speaking, the results of the study are not strong enough to support the conclusion that FLL showed tissue selection in bone and uterus.

Detailed comments:

1. Page 5, line 36, what is estrdiol vlerts? Please check the spelling.

2. Why did the authors choose to use the dosage (3.5g/kg/day) of FLL in this study? Would it be too high for the rats?

3. The age of the rats used in the study was not specified.

4. The brand of antibody used in the immunohistochemical staining was not specified. For the staining of uterus, which cell type in exact was used for quantification? What is the IOD value in figure 1,2,4,5 referring to? The quantification method used for staining was not specified.

5. What is the method used to determine the E2, LH, and FSH levels? In the abstract the authors wrote radioimmunoassay, but in the method section, the authors wrote ELISA. Please be consistent of the method. If it is ELISA, the full name of it should be shown for the first time it is shown.

6. Page 9, line 42, what do you mean by 'contribute to prevent the development of menopausal systems'. The English language in writing should be improved.

7. Page 10, line 20, is 'OVX insults' the proper way to use?

8. Page 11, line 49, the regulatory effect of FLL on estrogen receptor does not equal to high affinity to it.

9. Page 11, line 50, 'the application of FLL does not increase the risk of endometrial cancer' is over stated. The result of this manuscript cannot support this conclusion.
10. In the revised version, the authors add one discussion paragraph of the potential active compounds in FLL, but their effects were on bone turnover instead of estogenic effect. I think the latter one is the focus of this manuscript. I suggest the authors should make the discussion more focused.

11. In general, the English language writing in the manuscript needs major revision.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**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.

No

**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 recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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