Reviewer’s report

Title: The modified Si-Jun-Zi decoction attenuates colon cancer liver metastasis by increasing macrophage cells

Version: 1 Date: 28 May 2018

Reviewer: Gökhan Sadi

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor,

In their submitted study, the authors aim to investigate the effect of modified Si-Jun-Zi (SJZ) decoction which as an herb used in Chinese traditional medicine on metastasis of colorectal cancer cell metastasis to the liver tissues. They used a nude mice model of spleen-transplanted colon cancer cells to observe its liver metastasis. This model could partly mimic the clinic process of colon cancer, including cancer cells detaching from colon cancer tissue and entering the liver by portal venous system. In that sound, the subject matter of the manuscript is in the scope of the Journal. Experiments, statistics, and other analyses are performed to a high technical standard and are described in sufficient detail. The article is presented in an intelligible fashion and is written in good English. Following minor comments should be addressed prior to publication.

Minor comments,
1. In the methods section, the protocols for the time and dose studies should be given in "animal groups and treatment" section instead of flow cytometric analysis.

2. The results of time and dose response studies should be discussed more in discussion.

3. In the first paragraph of discussion, open name of TCM should be given for the first time.

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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