Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 30 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Chakrabhavi Dhananjaya Mohan

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript entitled "The modified Si-Jun-Zi decoction attenuates colon cancer liver metastasis by increasing macrophage cells" describes the effect of modified SJZ on CRC liver metastasis in preclinical models. I have some concerns about the manuscript.

1. Though the results are interesting, the basis of this work is the usage of SJZ in traditional Chinese medicine and there are no concrete scientific evidences to prove, which are bioactive principles are contributing for its antimetastatic activity. Since SJZ is a decoction, it is difficult to understand which is the bioactive component?

2. Moreover, why did authors hypothesize that it may possess antimetastatic activity and why in vitro studies were not carried out in the relevant models to evaluate its anticancer and antimetastatic activity?

3. I feel, the amount of SJZ used in the study is voluminous (45g/kg body weight) and clinically not relevant. How was the dose decided? What is the maximum tolerable dose?

4. Please provide the reference for in vivo experiments as you have started the treatment from the second day of transplantation?

5. Please provide the figure which shows change in the body weight from day 1 till the end of experiment for each group. Also, indicate the beginning of drug administration in the graph.

6. The manuscript needs language editing.

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.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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