Reviewer’s report

Title: The synergistic antitumor effect of Huaier combined with 5-fluorouracil in human cholangiocarcinoma cells

Version: 1 Date: 03 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Ying-Ray Lee

Reviewer's report:

In this revision, authors didn't answer three most important comments.

1. Fingerprint analysis has been accepted by WHO as a methodology for the quality control of herbal samples. Therefore, authors have to provide the fingerprint of Huaier extract in the present study.

2. In this article, authors determined the effect of Huaier extract along or combining with 5-FU on the cell proliferation, cell cycle regulation, apoptosis, and cellular migration/invasion. It is straightforward; however, authors also evaluated the activation of STAT-3 under treatment. IL-6 is used to be inducer of STAT-3 activation in the figure 5 and as a control. Therefore, it is recommended to examine whether agents-reduced STAT-3 activation is the reason involved in the cellular proliferation, cell cycle, apoptosis as well as cellular migration and invasion.

3. In this study, title "The synergistic antitumor effect of Huaier combined with 5-fluorouracil in human cholangiocarcinoma cells", authors verify the anticancer activity of these agents in only one cell line. It is also recommended to provide the effects of these agents in two or three human cholangiocarcinoma cell lines.

If these questions can't be addressed, it isn't recommended to publish in BMC Complementary & Alternative Medicine.

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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