Reviewer’s report

Title: Ginsenoside Rb1 Can Ameliorate the Key Inflammatory Cytokines TNF-α and IL-6 in a Cancer Cachexia Mouse Model

Version: 1 Date: 04 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Harshal Waghulde

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript by Lu et. al. is focused on studying the role of Panax ginseng extract on ameliorating the cancer cachexia in mouse model of cancer. They have recorded body weight changes, vital organ weight changes and two cytokines, TNF-alpha and IL-6, levels in the sera of mice with and without treatment with Ginseng extract. The manuscript is well written and adequate number of animals have been used to design the experiment. However, I have following comments:

1. The conclusions in this manuscript are based just on analyzing serum level of two cytokines. I think the authors need to perform lot more experiments to have a definite evidence of Ginseng extract being effective in cancer cachexia.

2. The independent sample t test is applied only when there are only two groups to compare. For more than two groups, the appropriate statistical test in ANOVA followed by multiple comparison to compare the significance among different treatment groups. All the statistical tests need to be performed again using appropriate test and then compare if there is significant difference.

3. The manuscript shows a lot of negative data than the positive one but there is no good explanation of this negative data discussed in the discussion section.

4. in the discussion section, first paragraph have statements without any references.

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal