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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Quercetin Reduces Hepatic Fibrogenesis by Inhibiting TGF-β/Smad3 Signaling Pathway in LX-2 Cell Line

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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1 Original submission

2 comments · 10 Feb 2021 – 15 Feb 2021

Referee 1 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 10 Feb 2021

In the present manuscript, "Quercetin Reduces Hepatic Fibrogenesis by Inhibiting TGF-β/Smad3 Signaling Pathway in LX2 Cell Line," the authors have examined the ability of quercetin to reduce the mRNA expression of αSMA and collagen-1 and downregulate TGF-β-induced Smad3C phosphorylation in the LX2 cell line. However, I feel that some shortcomings need to be addressed. I will be happy to review the manuscript once again when the authors have considered the following points and submitted the revised manuscript:

1) Some grammatical errors and typos should be fixed to make the manuscript clearer. I suggest you proofread once again and revise some of the words and sentences.

2) The effect of TGF-β on the survival of HSCs must be added to the article.

3) The E260/280 ratio reported in the article (2.1) is not very convincing. For this reason, gel electrophoresis analysis must be recorded.

Referee 2 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 15 Feb 2021

1- You cannot claim to have concluded that quercetin inhibits the important signaling pathway of TGF... because your data are insufficient. You can say that it is likely that....
2- How did you determine the optimum dose and time of TGF for inducing fibrosis?
3- You have not mentioned the brands of the bca kit, DEMEM, tripsn, and chemilumence detection kit that you used in this article.
4- What is the difference between your research and this paper: Quercetin Reduces Hepatic Fibrogenesis by Inhibiting TGF-β/Smad3 Signaling Pathway in LX2 Cell Line. It seems that this paper is even more complete than yours.
5- The manuscript needs to be edited by a native English speaker.
6- You have to rewrite the discussion with more detail and references.

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Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Reviewer 1:

Hello. The introductory and discussion sections were corrected according to the reviewer and the text was grammatically corrected.

Reviewer 2:

Hello. The introductory and discussion sections were corrected according to the reviewer and the text was grammatically corrected.

The names of the kits were written in the text and the mistakes were corrected

Reviewer 3:

Hello. The introductory and discussion sections were corrected according to the reviewer and the text was grammatically corrected.

The discussion was written in more detail.

Thanks

2 Revision 1

1 comment · 29 Mar 2021

Editor-in-Chief

MINOR REVISION 29 Mar 2021

Dear Authors,
Thank you for submitting the revised manuscript; your manuscript still needs minor changes. We will consider it for publication if you do revise the manuscript according to the reviewer's comments.

Kind Regards,

ECI

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Revision 2

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Reviewer 1:

1. In the first paragraph of background, omit the preposition "as" in the sentence "Several factors can activate HSCs and contribute to the progression of liver fibrosis, including as alcohol consumption,"

Hi, the word as was deleted in the first paragraph.

2. In the third paragraph of background correct the sentence "Therefore, the study of the effect of drugs for the treatment of liver fibrosis, accurate knowledge of signaling pathways in the progression of liver fibrosis". This sentence is incomplete.

Hello, the mentioned sentence was corrected. Thanks

3. In the objectives, the last sentence "Our results demonstrate that quercetin inhibits TGF-β/Smad3 signaling, thus inhibiting the activation of HSCs; therefore, it can act as an influential factor in preventing liver fibrosis". The use of "therefore" in this sentence is inappropriate.

Hello, the word therefore was removed from the sentence. Thanks

4. In the methods, Quantitative RT-PCR, revise the sentence "After RNA extraction, analysis of purified RNA quality was by gel …"

Hello, the mentioned sentence was corrected. Thanks

5. In the objectives, the last sentence is incomplete "Thus, the use of quercetin as a potential therapeutic agent in the treatment of liver fibrosis". This sentence should be rephrased.

Hello, the mentioned sentence was corrected. Thanks

Thanks

3 Revision 2

1 comment · 25 Jun 2021

Editor-in-Chief

ACCEPT 25 Jun 2021

Dear AUthors,

I am glad to inform you that your manuscript has been accepted for publication in JJNPP in its current form. We will send it to the publisher for further processing.

We thank you for considering JJNPP and look forward to receiving your future valuable research results.

Kind Regards,

JJNPP EIC