PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Stem Cells
Manuscript NO: 84602
Title: Synergism of calycosin and bone-marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells to combat podocyte apoptosis to alleviate Adriamycin-induced focal segmental glomerulosclerosis
Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed
Peer-review model: Single blind
Reviewer’s code: 05700519
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: MD
Professional title: Doctor
Reviewer’s Country/Territory: India
Author’s Country/Territory: China
Manuscript submission date: 2023-03-29
Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique
Reviewer accepted review: 2023-03-29 05:00
Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-09 09:33
Review time: 11 Days and 4 Hours

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Scientific quality</th>
<th>[ ] Grade A: Excellent</th>
<th>[X] Grade B: Very good</th>
<th>[ ] Grade C: Good</th>
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<td>[ ] Grade D: Fair</td>
<td>[ ] Grade E: Do not publish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novelty of this manuscript</td>
<td>[ ] Grade A: Excellent</td>
<td>[X] Grade B: Good</td>
<td>[ ] Grade C: Fair</td>
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<td>[ ] Grade D: No novelty</td>
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS
This is a well-designed study showing the positive effect of calycosin on the therapeutic efficacy of mesenchymal stem cells to alleviate Adriamycin-induced focal segmental glomerulosclerosis by inhibiting podocyte apoptosis. The findings in mice model and cultured cells have been validated with desired molecular techniques.
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**Reviewer’s code:** 05246699  
**Position:** Peer Reviewer  
**Academic degree:** MSc, PhD  
**Professional title:** Academic Research, Chief Physician  
**Reviewer’s Country/Territory:** Iran  
**Author’s Country/Territory:** China  
**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-03-29  
**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique  
**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-04-17 04:37  
**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-04-19 06:30  
**Review time:** 2 Days and 1 Hour

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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS
The authors have given a detailed description of the role of Calycosin pretreatment in enhances the therapeutic efficacy of mesenchymal stem cells to alleviate Adriamycin-induced focal segmental glomerulosclerosis by inhibiting podocyte apoptosis. However, there are many flaws and concerns on it. Study can be greatly improved if following suggestions were incorporated. 1. The title of the paper is not accurately expressed, and I think it needs to be rewritten. 2. Some references missing. For example, “As podocyte injury plays a critical role in FSGS progress, protecting podocytes is promising to prevent ESRD in patients with FSGS.” and etc. 3. In the introduction section, Authors should, in addition to reviewing the results related to MSCs Studies on Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis, presented reviewing to the results of bone marrow-derived MSCs on Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis 4. In order to make the paper more interesting to read, I suggested that the authors could add one
graphical abstract to the manuscript. 5. I suggest including clear limitations of the study in the discussion.