



# BAISHIDENG PUBLISHING GROUP INC

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## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Experimental Medicine

**Manuscript NO:** 32948

**Title:** Treg/Th17 cell balance and phytohaemagglutinin activation of T lymphocytes in peripheral blood of systemic sclerosis patients

**Reviewer's code:** 00291404

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Fang-Fang Ji

**Date sent for review:** 2017-04-13

**Date reviewed:** 2017-04-16

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have performed an interesting study. It is a good one. They have made some new discovery on the Treg and Th17 cells in patients of systemic sclerosis. There are two issues with the manuscript. (1). The discussion is way too long, and it can be cut into half without really losing content. (2). there need some improvements in English language.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Experimental Medicine

**Manuscript NO:** 32948

**Title:** Treg/Th17 cell balance and phytohaemagglutinin activation of T lymphocytes in peripheral blood of systemic sclerosis patients

**Reviewer's code:** 02837335

**Reviewer's country:** Egypt

**Science editor:** Fang-Fang Ji

**Date sent for review:** 2017-04-13

**Date reviewed:** 2017-04-23

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The study represents an interesting continuum to the research series towards unveiling the immunological profile in SSc. Authors aimed to study the resting and stimulated T reg and Th17 in addition to a number of cytokines including IL-10, TGF B, Il-17 and IL-6. The study confirmed what has been described in literature in addition to illustrating an up-regulated percentage of CD4+CD25-FoxP3+ cells in patients with dcSSc and increased serum levels of IL-17 in lcSSc as opposed to patients with dcSSc phenotype. Authors did a good work. Major revisions are requested. Points to be clarified and revised include: 1- The introduction section is well presented a part from the issue that authors mentioned conclusions at the end of the introduction while the hypothesis and aim need to be clearly stated without conclusions. 2- Authors should comment on the sample size as being relatively small, scleroderma is a rare disease and better refer to their population data regarding the incidence/prevalence of SSC in their ethnic group if available. 3- The study design wasn't clearly stated, and if authors used any specific



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check list during performance of the study. 4- In the methodology section as understood three samples were investigated two from each patient including a control and a stimulated sample in addition to samples from healthy subjects. The author should display in the results section their results in the patients and controls in the three samples. This wasn't clarified in text or tables, what was the resting T cell profile and cytokine profile in the samples from the patient and interpret this in comparison to healthy subjects at resting and stimulated level. This wasn't clearly displayed neither in text nor in tables. 5- In the results section some values were explained in terms of means and SD and other were provided in ranges, better mention the ranges, means and SD for all in text. 6- How many patients were on immunosuppressive drugs or other DMARDs medications? Frequency/percentage this is an important issue and most importantly the authors didn't explain if immunosuppressive therapy in the studied patients had an influence on the reported results regarding T cell profile and cytokine milieu at either baseline or after stimulation. 7- In spite that figures are quite expressive yet authors should put into consideration insignificant data are as important as positives and should be clarified in the tables with the P value, r value and confidence intervals clearly stated in either situation. 8- In the results section concerning the T reg line 7 the authors mentioned 'meanwhile' what does this mean in the interpretation of results? the authors should rephrase in a relatively precise way. 9- Discussion section is very long and might require adjustments following revisions previously stated.