



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

**Manuscript NO:** 79331

**Title:** Xiaojianzhong decoction prevents the progression of MNNG-induced gastric precancerous lesions in a rat model by inhibiting autophagy and glycolysis in gastric mucosal cells

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05754965

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Postdoc

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** United States

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-08-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** Dong-Mei Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-10-23 17:56

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-10-26 20:12

**Review time:** 3 Days and 2 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection



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<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This is an interesting study investigating the role of a traditional Chinese medicine Xiaojianzhong decoction in preventing the progression of MNNG-induced gastric precancerous lesions. The authors firstly analyzed the chemical components in Xiaojianzhong decoction. Then, by using a rat model, they showed that Xiaojianzhong decoction could ameliorate gastric mucosal pathological conditions in MNNG-induced GPL rats. Mechanistically, they found that Xiaojianzhong decoction exerted this protective role by regulating autophagy and glycolysis via PI3K/AKT/mTOR and p53/AMPK/ULK1 signaling pathways. This study is well designed. The writing is good. Here I have the following minor questions. (1) A major flaw in Chinese traditional medicine is the lack of precision. Since you have identified the main components of Xiaojianzhong decoction, it is necessary to perform experiments to see which one or which combination is the effective components conferring Xiaojianzhong decoction this protective effect in your study. (2) p53 is a master regulator of cellular metabolism, including autophagy and glycolysis (PMID: 33785447). However, in your introduction and discussion, there is little content to introduce or discuss the importance of p53-mediated metabolic regulation in your system. You need to add these contents. (3) All the WB figures need internal control band. (4) In the caption of figure 2, there should be a space between "liver," and "kidney".



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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05382551

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Spain

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-08-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** Dong-Mei Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-10-31 12:45

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-10-31 13:02

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection



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<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The article is within the scope of the journal, and deals with an interesting topic. It is well written and organized. His reading is fluent. Regarding the content, it is an original contribution. Likewise, it represents an advance in the area of knowledge. The article presents a well-designed experiment. The work methodology, the results and a discussion of them are presented. However, it should be improved in 2 aspects: a) The state of the art of the article should be expanded. b) The conclusions are very limited. The scientific contribution and a set of lines of future work must be indicated. c) In the discussion section, the description of the sales and limitations of the results obtained should be improved.