Reviewer #1:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Minor revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:** In this original article, the authors focused on exploring the role of HMGB1/TLR4 signaling pathway and GA in HAEC. Multiple methodologies have been performed to verify the hypothesis of authors. The results showed that GA significantly reduced the intestinal luminal area, increased the number of intestinal goblet cells, and decreased IL-1β and IL-8 in HAEC. So, in my opinion, the article is well-written. The experimental design is reasonable, and the results reflects the conclusion very well. I recommend its acceptance after minor revision. The detailed comments are: 1) The authors selected 1.25, 12.5 and 50 μg/mL of GA as low, medium and high concentration group. What is the reason? 2) Although this article is well-written, the wording can be further improved to increase the readability. For example, verb of “increase” and “decrease” are more suitable for survival rate and mortality than “affect”.

Thanks for your guidance, the following are the changes we have made in response to these comments:

1) We grouped according to pre experimental results. We have supplemented this in the methods of the original article.
2) We have adapted the verb to modify survival.

Reviewer #2:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade C (Good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Minor revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Hirschsprung-associated enterocolitis (HAEC) is challenging in pediatric surgery, which lacks clear explanation of its pathogenesis. Ming-Kun Liu and colleagues presented the protective role of glycyrrhizic acid (GA) for HAEC in this study. Moreover, they discussed the underlying mechanism of HMGB1/TLR4 signaling pathway in the progression and treatment of HAEC. In short, this study is instructive, and the experimental methods and data can well support the conclusion in this paper. I have only a minor concern of the paper: the authors emphasized the important role of HMGB1/TLR4 signaling pathway in the title, but little related contents can be found in the main text, this is a contradiction. Please add more descriptions in the main text, or rephrase the title of this paper. In Figure 4, the authors should provide statistical analysis for the data. How about the significant difference among different groups?

Thanks for your guidance, the following are the changes we have made in response to these comments:

1) We revised the title of the article.
2) We supplemented the significance of each group comparison in both figures and notes.