
Title: Macrophage involvement in the pathological evolution of ulcerative colitis-associated colon cancer and progress of related traditional Chinese medicine drug interventions
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Traditional Medicine Research has retracted this article upon the request of the editor-in-chief and academic committee. On June 5, 2023, we received a complaint regarding possible picture plagiarism within this article, which prompted the decision to retract this article. Following a comprehensive examination, it was determined that the content depicted in this article's pictures was identical to that found in another published paper. Consequently, the editorial office determined that retracting the article was necessary.

Traditional Medicine Research received this manuscript on 28 February 2023. After the plagiarism check, the overall similarity rate of this manuscript was 17%, and the highest similarity rate of per paper was 5% among all matches, which was qualified. Then the manuscript was started to be sent to peer review at 17:47 on 03 March 2023. This manuscript was sent to five reviewers and two of them sent back the comments. These two reviewers are invited to review on 03 March 2023. Due to the journal’s single blind peer review policy, we do not give the names of the two reviewers here. Both the anonymous reviewers (one reviewer is from Shenyang Pharmaceutical University, China, and the other reviewer is from Zhengzhou University, China) gave the decision as “Accept subject to revisions, as noted in comments”. The content of the review comments is as follows:

“Comment 1:
This manuscript reviews the case evolution of macrophages occurring in ulcerative colitis-associated colon cancer and the mechanism and role played by related Chinese medicine for intervention. Reviewers provide a clear and informative background explanation of macrophages and their role in this disease, as well as a compilation and evaluation of the application of traditional Chinese medicine in UC-CRC, which provides a reference for the theoretical feasibility and efficacy of Chinese medicine to dispel evil in inflammatory diseases. However, some problems in the article need to be changed, as follows.
1. The full text focuses on the role played by macrophages in UC-CRC and the role and mechanism of TCM in the treatment, but the second half of the title of this article is about related drugs, please correct the title of the article or add other therapeutic drugs, such as western drugs, in the treatment.
2. Most of the introduction is about UC-CRC and the role of macrophages in it, but a large part of the following article also contains the role and mechanism of Chinese medicine in its treatment. Please explain the therapeutic mechanism and role of TCM in UC-CRC in the preface.
3. Part 3.2 lists the various applications of TCM in preclinical studies of UC-CRC, but the subheading of clinical advantages is biased. It is suggested that the subheading should be changed to “Prospects for the application of TCM in the prevention and treatment of UC-CRC”.
4. Part 3.3 please add references in the text that prove that a single extract or compound TCM can regulate the polarization of macrophages to treat metabolic diseases, infections, atherosclerosis, and cancer, etc.
5. Part 3.4 lists the roles played by different herbal monomers in regulating macrophage polarization, whether these herbal medicines possess some similarity in terms of categories. Please explain the herbal monomers involved and the roles they play in a categorized manner.
6. Please outline in section 3.5 the advantages of herbal compounding over herbal monotherapies
7. Please add the advantages and shortcomings of TCM in the treatment of UC-CRC in the discussion section, and fully explain the prospects of the application of this drug in UC-CRC.
8. Please note the grammatical and writing errors in the text, such as the repeated occurrence of macrophage in the abstract; the abbreviations TCM and Th1 lack the full name of the noun explanation.
Comment 2:
Ke et al. evaluate the clinical evidence of TCM for treating UC-CRC, the essential function of macrophage polarization in the pathogenesis of UC-CRC, and the possible mechanisms of TCM in controlling macrophage polarization in the treatment of UC-CRC. It is of great significance in clinic. The manuscript is well addressed and worth publishing in this journal.
Minor revision:
In abstract section, this sentence” Intestinal macrophage macrophages can be polarized between a”, please delete one more macrophage. It is suggested to add the system evaluation and Literature retrieval strategy.
Thank you.”

When the comments from the reviewers were received, the authors were informed about revising the manuscript according to the comments on
23 March 2023. They sent back the final revised version of this manuscript on 07 April 2023. This manuscript was accepted on 10 April 2023. After typesetting, this manuscript was online on 10 April 2023.

On 05 June 2023, the editorial office received an anonymous letter questioning picture plagiarism of this article. The letter is as follows:

"Dear editorial office of "Traditional Medicine Research":
I have read the article entitled "Macrophage involvement in the pathological evolution of ulcerative colitis-associated colon cancer and progress of related traditional Chinese medicine drug interventions" published on your journal, but I found that this article is quite similar to my previous article titled 'A potential thermal target in traditional Chinese medicine for effective politics: Macrophage polarization’, especially Figures 1 and 2 in the article. Therefore, I suggest the editorial office to reconsider whether this paper can be published on TMR.
Best regards”.

After re-examining the article, the editorial office decided to retract it, informed all authors of this article by email on 06 June 2023, and gave them a week to appeal. The editorial office has not received a response letter from the corresponding author Yan-Wu Li and Xin-Lin Chen, and there have been no responses from any other authors to date. Because of the preceding, after re-examining, the editorial office decided to maintain the original decision and this article will be retracted from publication.

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