Reviewer comments.

This is a well written manuscript that focuses on a clinically relevant medical problem in men. Several issues should be addressed.

1. It would be helpful to emphasize the importance of this condition in older men.

Response: Chronic prostatitis (CP) is the most prevalent disease in andrology, which often occurs in men at any age. In addition, men with a history of prostatitis present high recurrence rate with age, which is 20 %, 38 %, and 50 % in men aged 40, 60, and 80, respectively [1]. We have added them to the Instruction section.

1. This reviewer did not see the age of the patients in the study.

Response: Thank you for the valuable comments. The subjects were between 55 and 75 years old. We have added them to the Materials and methods section.

1. Results of the rat studies are not mentioned in the abstract. In addition, a brief description of the translational relevance of the rat model in the text would be helpful.

Response: Quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR) and western blotting were performed to determine the expression of miR-181c in clinical CP patients, CNP rats, and LPS-induced human prostaglandin epithelial cell RWPE-1. The results revealed that miR-181c was low expressed in prostate tissue of CP patients and CNP rats and human prostaglandin epithelial cell RWPE-1. We have added them to the Abstract section.

We constructed a CNP rat model induced by carrageenan. This model is similar to some pathological symptoms of clinical CNP patients such as prostate pain, lameness, high increase of prostate volume, increased inflammatory cell and prostate epithelial cell proliferation, indicating that carrageenan-induced CNP rat model can better reflect chronic non-bacterial prostatitis, and providing a reliable theoretical basis for clinical research. We have added them to the Discussion section.

1. A short paragraph discussing specific ideas for treatment, especially in older men, would be of interest to readers.

Response: Consequently, in the clinical treatment of chronic abacterial prostatitis in elderly male patients, the expression of miR-181c can be up-regulated to improve prostate pain, dyskinesia, and inflammation. We have added them to the Discussion section.

Reference

1. Pontari MA: **Chronic prostatitis/chronic pelvic pain syndrome in elderly men: toward better understanding and treatment**. *Drugs & aging* 2003, **20**(15):1111-1125.