OPEN PEER REVIEW

Open Peer Review (OPR)

As a new feature for progressing towards transparency, we decided to open a new window for all of our editors as well as authors titled "**Open Peer Review**". We hope by this new facility, our reviewers will be more motivated and authors will be more satisfied with the review process. We believe that publishing our peer review reports could make a transparent and clear environment for all our efforts within a journal, but not all reviewers tend to publish their comments.

What is "Open Peer Review" process?

An "Open Peer Review" process is making the details of all review process (including reviewers, associate editors, and EICs comments) as "Public" as it is agreed by EIC, Authors, and reviewers.

Advantages of "Open Peer Review" process

- More transparency, constructiveness and tactful comments of the peer review process: leads to an increase in the quality of reviews
- More motivations for all involved roles in the review process
- Authors' satisfactions from the review process: Increases honesty between authors and reviewers
- Education of both authors and new students
- Prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas and leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests

You can find out more at:
https://sites.kowsarpub.com/kowsar/knowledgebase/category/tree.html#opr.html

International Journal of Cancer Management
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Peer Review Report for "Effect of Metformin on Cigarette Withdrawal Syndrome and Abstinence in Lung Cancer Patients; A Double-blind Placebo-controlled Trial"

Author(s): Bijan Pirnia, Raheleh Masoudi, Melika Sefidrood, Elham Zarghami, Kambiz Pirnia , Parastoo Malekanmehr

Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 7 Nov 2020
Revised Date: 10 Feb 2021
Accepted Date: 13 Feb 2021

Revision (0)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0)

30 Dec 2020

Dear AE,
Thank you for submitting this trial to the IJCM.
There are several suggestions for the authors that can improve the quality of this manuscript.
- The manuscript needs English copy-editing.
- Please mention the importance of the study in the Background section.
- Please mention the primary and secondary objectives in detail. (in the Methods_objectives section)
- The dates of patients' accrual -mentioned in the main text- are not matched with the abstract.
- Please add a CONSORT flow diagram
- Please define the parameters of the sample size estimation. Also, please add the formula.
- Please add a Table comparing the demographic characteristics of groups (including p-value). These data may be added as extra columns to Table 1.
- Line 252-253

please revise the sentence. Of course, this is not the first study evaluating the effect of metformin on nicotine withdrawal syndrome (e.g. Activation of AMPK by metformin improves withdrawal signs precipitated by nicotine withdrawal)
Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision (0)** 31 Dec 2020

Dear EIC,
Thanks for considering me as a reviewer on this manuscript.
My comments are as follows:
1) Article TITLE is properly selected.
2) The title reflects the content appropriately.
3) There is no abbreviation in the TITLE.
4) Authors' names and institutional affiliations should be mentioned according to the journal style.
5) There are about 286 words in the ABSTRACT and the word count is in a suitable range.
6) The abstract describes the content accurately.
7) The manuscript needs English copy-editing.
8) Please mention the importance of the study in the Background section.
9) Please mention the primary and secondary objectives in detail. (in the Methods_objectives section)
10) The dates of patients' accrual -mentioned in the main text- are not matched with the abstract.
Thanks.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision (0)** 2 Jan 2021

Dear authors,
Please revise your manuscript according to the reviewer's and associate editor's comments.
Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Reviewer 1:
Dear authors

Thank you for submitting this trial to the IJCM.
There are several suggestions that can improve the quality of this manuscript.

- The manuscript needs English copy-editing.

Was reformed.

- Please mention the importance of the study in the Background section.

Although the use of pharmacological interventions in smoking cessation has a long history, only limited studies have reported the use of metformin.
In addition, research literature suggests that metformin may be involved in inhibiting the growth of cancer cells.
Due to the dual role of metformin in smoking cessation and inhibition of cancer cell growth, this study is of clinical importance.

- Please mention the primary and secondary objectives in detail. (In the Methods_objectives section)

The primary outcomes include metformin efficacy on cigarette withdrawal syndrome in eight components and secondary outcomes include urinary cotinine levels and eCO level.

- The dates of patients' accrual -mentioned in the main text- are not matched with the abstract.

It was reformed. February 2018 to May 2019.

- Please add a CONSORT flow diagram

It was added:

(Fig 1).

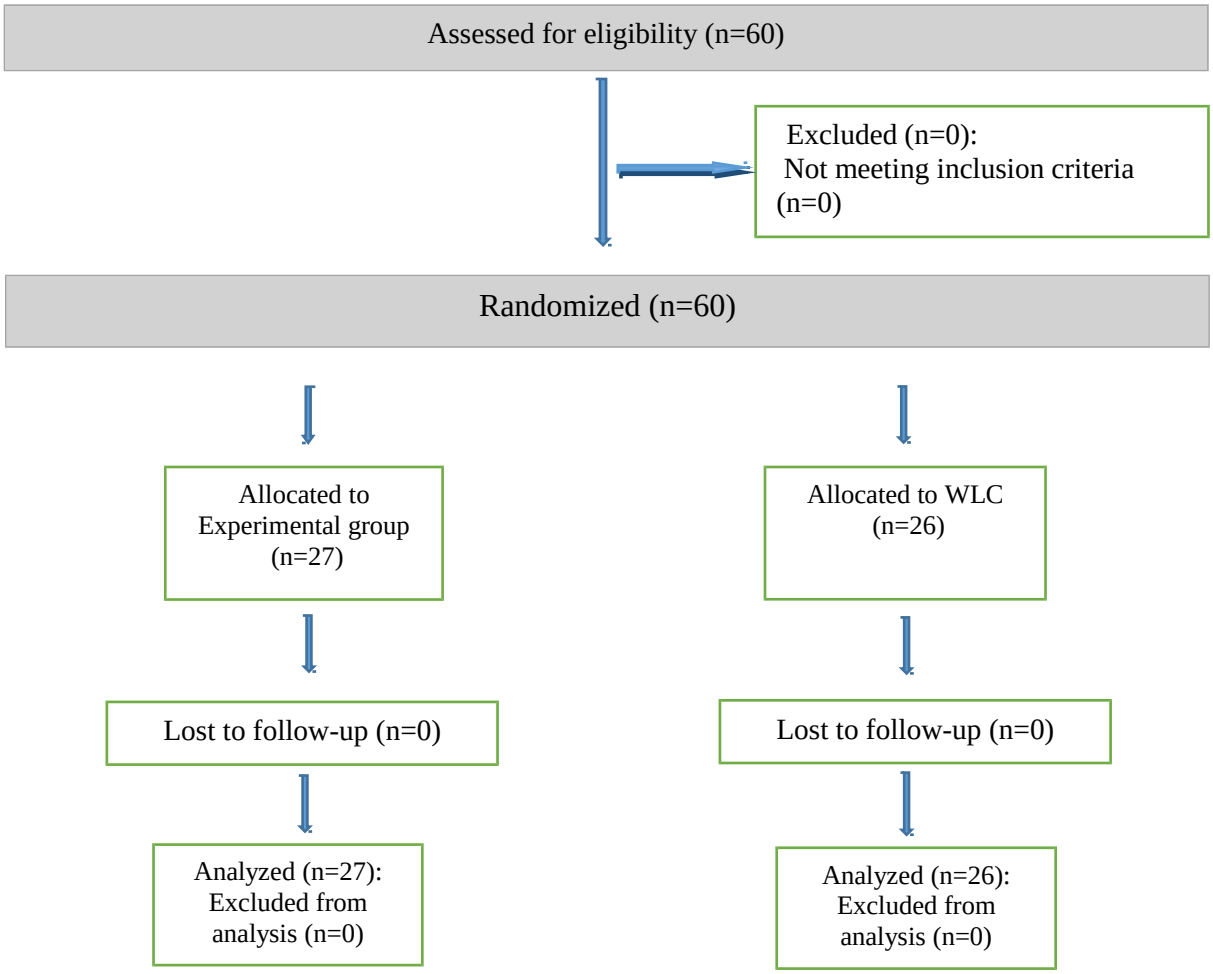


Figure 1: Flow diagram of the progress through the phases of a placebo-controlled clinical

- Please define the parameters of the sample size estimation. Also, please add the formula.

$$n = \frac{z_{+}(1_{-}\beta)}{d^2} = \frac{(1.645+0.84)2}{.25} = 24.7$$ ≈ 25 × 2 (group) = 50 + 10 = 60

Taking into account the possibility of dropping of subject, 5 participants were added to the sample size and 60 participants were considered.

- Please add a Table comparing the demographic characteristics of groups (including p-value). These data may be added as extra columns to Table 1.

P-value was added.

Table 1: Description of the Participants (N = 53)

Characteristic	Mean (SD)		P- value
	Experimental	WLC	
Age	(7.31) 33.87	(7.03) 35.21	NS
Cigarettes per day	19.01 (4.22)	17.53 (6.55)	NS
Age of first cigarette	15.21 (3.24)	18.21 (3.83)	NS
Regular smoking onset	(3.42) 19.95	(3.27) 18.59	NS
Years as a smoker	18.09 (6.08)	16.47 (5.22)	NS
Previous quitting attempts	(0.84) 1.03	(0.62) 1.15	NS
Previous treatments	(0.52) 1.49	(0.64) 1.99	NS
Urine cotinine at baseline (ng/ml)	(03 .712) 1 .2653	(629.81) 283.949	NS
Baseline exhaled CO (ppm)	(4.29) 13.71	(6.11) 15.47	NS
Sex	%		
Female	29.83	33.93	0/05 >
Male	66.29	69.95	NS
Marital status			
Married/cohabiting	28.89	33.31	0/05 >
Separated/divorced	23.51	19.07	0/05 >
Never married	49.23	45.99	0/05 >
Years of education			
Under the diploma	29.21	26.07	NS

Bachelor	52.29	49.93	NS
Master's degree	22.17	16.25	< 0/05
PhD Degree	1.83	2.25	NS

NS: No significance

- Line 252-253
please revise the sentence. Of course, this is not the first study evaluating the effect of metformin on nicotine withdrawal syndrome (e.g. Activation of AMPK by metformin improves withdrawal signs precipitated by nicotine withdrawal)

It was reformed:

In general, this study was conducted aimed to evaluate the effect of metformin on the reduction of nicotine withdrawal syndrome and increasing nicotine abstinence.

Associate Editor's Comments:

Associate Editor 1:
Dear editor of IJCP
Thank you for considering me as a reviewer on this manuscript.

My comments are as follows:
1) Article TITLE is properly selected.
2) The title reflects the content appropriately.
3) There is no abbreviation in the TITLE.
4) Authors' names and institutional affiliations should be mentioned according to the journal style.
5) There are about 286 words in the ABSTRACT and the word count is in suitable range.
6) The abstract describes the content accurately.
7) The manuscript needs English copy-editing.

Was reformed.

8)Please mention the importance of the study in the Background section.

Although the use of pharmacological interventions in smoking cessation has a long history, only limited studies have reported the use of metformin.

In addition, research literature suggests that metformin may be involved in inhibiting the growth of cancer cells.
Due to the dual role of metformin in smoking cessation and inhibition of cancer cell growth, this study is of clinical importance.

9)Please mention the primary and secondary objectives in detail. (in the Methods_objectives section)

The primary outcomes include metformin efficacy on cigarette withdrawal syndrome in eight components and secondary outcomes include urinary cotinine levels and eCO level.

10)The dates of patients' accrual -mentioned in the main text- are not matched with the abstract.

It was reformed. February 2018 to May 2019.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (1) — 27 Jan 2021

Dear AE,
Thanks to the authors for the precise responses to all the comments.
Regards

Amir Shahram Yousefi Kashi: Associate Editor | **Revision** (1) — 6 Feb 2021

Dear EIC
Based on the authors' answers to the reviewers' comments, the reviewer(s) have recommended publication.
Kind regards.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (1) — 8 Feb 2021

Dear authors,
Please remove "Nicotine Withdrawal" from the keywords list, as it is not considered a MeSH term. You should provide at least 3 keywords. In addition, please define all abbreviations when they are used for the first time, both in the abstract and manuscript body, each one separately, such as "AMPK", "eCO", "PAMPK", ... in the manuscript body. Also, please define all abbreviations used in each table, below that table.
Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

Reply to Reviewers

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You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Dear

Please remove "Nicotine Withdrawal" from the keywords list, as it is not considered a MeSH term.

Nicotine Withdrawal was removed from keywords.

You should provide at least 3 keywords.

Lung neoplasm was added to keywords.

In addition, please define all abbreviations when they are used for the first time, both in the abstract and manuscript body, each one separately, such as "AMPK", "eCO", "PAMPK", ... in the manuscript body.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA(

Norepinephrine-Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitor (NDRI)

AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK)

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS)

Phosphorylated AMP-activated protein kinase (pAMPK)

International Classification of Diseases (ICD)

Body mass index (BMI)

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)

Also, please define all abbreviations used in each table, below that table.

NS: No significance, WLC: wait-list control, SD: standard deviation

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (2)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (2) 13 Feb 2021

Dear authors,

Thank you for revising your manuscript.

Thanks.