OPEN PEER REVIEW

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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.

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- Prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas and leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests

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Peer Review Report for "Comparison of Antimicrobial Activity of Fluoride Varnishes Against *Streptococcusmutans* and *Lactobacillus acidophilus*: An In Vitro Study"

Author(s): Banafsheh Soleimani, Hamidreza Goli, Mahsa Naranjian, Seyed Jaber Mousavi, Azam Nahvi

Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 21 Nov 2020
Revised Date: 1 Mar 2021
Accepted Date: 17 Mar 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) 28 Dec 2020

Dear AE,
This article has a valuable research outcome. but, There are some dull points that should be cleared by the authors.
1. In the abstract section, the statistical tests that are used should be mentioned.
2. In the materials and methods section, it has been said that different concentrations of fluoride varnish materials and antibiotics were prepared. But in the results section, it was not explained how these concentrations were applied in the experiment. So, what was the purpose of making different concentrations?
3. The method of measuring the growth inhibition zone is the ruler. how precise is using a ruler? what precision unit did you have?
4. The number of samples (cultures) in each group should be mentioned. It was not clear in the text.
5. In the results sections and relevant table, it is better to provide data about the antibiotic's diameter of non-growth as well so that one can compare the antibacterial effect with the control group. In the abstract and methods sections, it has been described that antibiotics

were used as controls but there are no data available in the results section.
6. How this research was blinded?
7. By extrapolating the data, can the researcher say the effect of these varnishes was bactericidal or bacteriostatic?
This article is well written and with some changes, it can be accepted for publication.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 3 Jan 2021

Dear AE,
This manuscript needs many changes in different parts and is not suitable for publication in this journal.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 8 Jan 2021

Dear AE,
Here are some minor revisions I recommend for the authors. I also highlight them in the pdf file which is attached below:
1) Abstract: Background and purpose: the second sentence could be written as: the structural and metabolic characteristics of cariogenic microorganisms are different from each other.
2) Abstract: objective: the word 'caries causing' is better be replaced by cariogenic
3) Abstract: result: the mean diameter of(of after mean should be deleted)
4) Background: line 5: the word ' matter' seems to be incorrect
5) Background: paragraph 1 last line: what does caries-free decay lesions mean?
6) Material and methods: it is mentioned that different concentrations of varnishes was prepared, but there is no analysis mentioned on these different concentrations in the result.
7) Result: the last sentence said that since there is no bacterial growth halo around DMSO, it doesn't have any antibacterial effects.it seems it should no bacterial non-growth zone/halo instead
Thanks.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 14 Jan 2021

Dear AE,
The manuscript has a proper title and presents an important subject. The objective and Study design were explained clearly. I agree with the publication but I believe some following suggestions may improve this article after being done by the authors.
- Comment (keywords): just "Xylitol" and "Lacobacillus acidophilus" are selected from MESH. You can add new MESH keywords to improve your article
- Comment (keyword): fluoride not "fluride".
- Comment (method): please explain why you repeated the test five times and not more or less? Does this point in the methodology have a reference? If yes please refer to it.
- Comment (method): please declare if the examiner/s was blinded.
- Comment (results): line 133, the sentence "The results of the Post Hoc …" should include numerical values for its claim.

- Comment (discussion): line 148, the sentence “In disk diffusion method, antibacterial evaluation …” seems out of the mainstream and logical sequence of the article. I did not understand its relevance to the including paragraph.
- Comment (general): the manuscript needs a technical revise in terms of scientific writing principles such as punctuation marks and language as well.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) 16 Jan 2021

Dear EIC,
In addition to the comments of respected reviewers, the following should be corrected. The exact P values are not written in the abstract, results, and tables; which need to be addressed. Moreover, the manuscript needs a strong English edition.
Thanks.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (0) 17 Jan 2021

Dear Author,
Thank you for submitting your manuscript to Iran J Pediatr. Your manuscript has now been reviewed by two reviewers and an Associate Editor. I now have the reports of the Referees, which suggest that your manuscript might be suitable for publication following a number of revisions. I attach some reviewer comments and invite you to submit a revised version of your manuscript addressing the points made.
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:

This article has a valuable research outcome. but, There are some dull points that should be cleared.
Dear Editor of Iranian journal of Pediatrics,
Here are some comments for the article entitled "Comparison of antimicrobial activity of fluoride varnishes against Streptococcus mutans and Lactobacillus acidophilus: An in vitro study".

Q1:In the abstract section, the statistical tests that are used should be mentioned.

R1:It was Corrected in the article

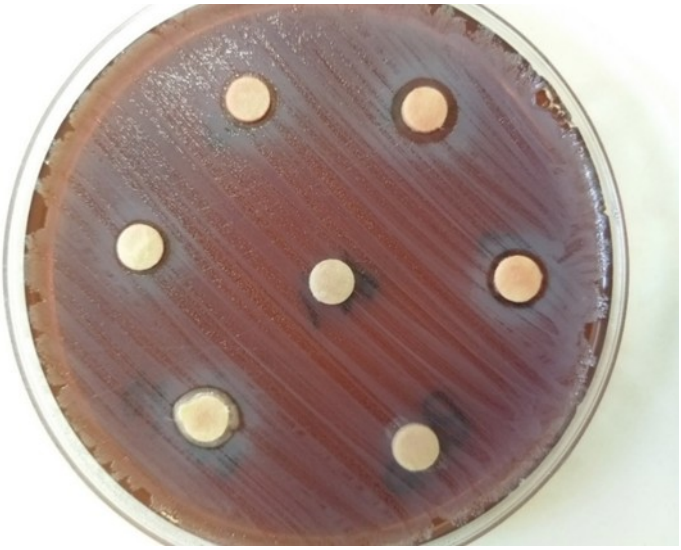
Analysis of variance (AVOVA) and POST HOC tests were applied to compare the mean of non-growth zone diameter in the studied groups

Q2. In the materials and methods section, it has been said that different concentrations of fluoride varnish materials and antibiotics were prepared. But in the results section, it was not explained how these concentrations were applied in the experiment. So, what was the purpose of making different concentrations?

R2:The reason for choosing different dilutions was to examine which dilution has the greatest effect. The average of these dilutions is shown in Table 2

Q3. The method of measuring the growth inhibition zone is ruler. how precise is using a ruler? what precision unit did you have?

R3:We looked at it with high precision and vertically with a ruler under the light) As shown below)



Q4:The number of samples (cultures) in each group should be mentioned. It was not clear in the text.

R4:We did not have a number of samples, we used two standard culture media

Q5:In the results sections and relevant table, it is better to provide data about the antibiotic's diameter of non-growth as well so that one can compare the antibacterial effect with the control group. In the abstract and methods sections it has been described that antibiotics were used as controls but there are no data available in the results section.

R5:Regarding antibiotics, it was observed that the antibacterial effect of ampicillin was greater than that of erythromycin and created a larger growth inhibition zone.

Q6: How this research was blinded?

R6:The person performing the microbial tests was not aware of the type of varnish

Q7. By extrapolating the data, can the researcher say the effect of these varnishes were bactericidal or bacteriostatic?

R7:According to the results of the present study by disk diffusion method, we can not say with certainly that the varnishes are bactericidal or bacteristatic. To investigate this issue in future studies, it is suggested to use the MIC method.

This article is well written and with some changes it can be accepted for publication.

Reviewer 2:

dear Author, here are some minor revisions I recommend. I also highlight them in the pdf file which is attached below:

Q1) Abstract: background and purpose: the second sentence could be written as :the structural and metabolic characteristics of cariogenic microorganism are different from each other.
R1:It was Corrected in the article

Q2) Abstract: objective: the word 'caries causing' is better to be replaced by cariogenic

R2:It was Corrected in the article

Q3) Abstract: result : the mean diameter of(of after mean should be deleted)

R3:It was Corrected in the article
Q4) Background: line 5: the word ' matter' seems to be incorrect

R4: It was Corrected in the article

Q5: Background: paragraph 1 last line: what does caries free decay lesions mean? Primary carious lesions

R5: It was Corrected in the article

Q6) Material and methods: it is mentioned that different concentration of varnishes were prepared, but there is no analysis mentioned on these different concentration in the result.

R6:The mean of these concentrations is compared in Table 2

Q7) Result: the last sentence said that since there is no bacterial growth halo around DMSO ,it doesn't have any antibacterial effects.it seems it should no bacterial non growth zone/halo instead

R7:DMSO had no antibacterial effect and no growth inhibition zone formed around it

Reviewer 3:

This manuscript needs many changes in different parts and is not suitable for publication in this journal

Reviewer 4:

Dear author/s

The manuscript has a proper title and presents an important subject. Objective and Study design were explained clearly. I agree with the publication but I believe some following suggestions may improve this article.

Q1:Comment (keywords): just "Xylitol" and "Lacobacillus acidophilus" are selected from MESH. You can add new MESH keywords to improve your article

R1:It was Corrected in the article

Q2:Comment (keyword): fluoride not "fluride".

R2:It was Corrected in the article

Q3:Comment (method): please explain why you repeated the test five times and not more or less? Does this point in the methodology have a reference? If yes please refer to it.

R3:The measurement standard is 3 times. It was measured 5 times for more accuracy) According to the following reference(

Mortazavi M, KohanTeb J, JahaniMoghaddam F. Inhibitory effect of sodium fluoridevarnish and APF gel on carious microorganisms, an in vitro syudy. J of Dentistry, Shiraz Univ Med Sci. 2007;15(8):64-73.

Q4:Comment (method): please declare if the examiner/s were blinded.

R4:The person performing the microbial tests was not aware of the type of varnish

Q5:Comment (results): line 133, the sentence "The results of the Post Hoc …" should include numerical values for its claim.

R5: *It was Corrected in the article (* ***Table 3)***

Table 3.The results of Tukey HSD test on the difference between the mean diameter of the growth inhibition zone in different groups

P-value	Group(I-J)	Group(J)	Group(I)	Bacteria
0.033	1.800	polimo	MI varnish	***Streptococcus mutans***
0.033	1.800	Fluoro Dose		
1.00	0.00	Fluoro Dose	polimo	

Q6:Comment (discussion): line 148, the sentence "In disk diffusion method, antibacterial evaluation …" seems out of the mainstream and logical sequence of the article. I did not understand its relevance to the including paragraph.

R6:In the present study, the disk diffusion method was used and This section describes the features of this test

Q7:Comment (general): the manuscript needs a technical revise in terms of scientific writing principles such as punctuation marks and language as well

R7: It was Corrected in the article

Associate Editor 1:

Hi dear editor

Q:n addition to the comments of respected reviewers, the followings should be corrected. The exact P values are not written in abstract, results and tables; which need to be addressed. Moreover, the manuscript needs a strong English edition.

R:It was Corrected in the article

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Revision (1)

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

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (1) 12 Mar 2021

Dear EIC,
The article is well modified. The only item left is that Persian numbers be written in English in the tables.
Thanks.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (1) 17 Mar 2021

Dear Author,
The second round of peer review of your manuscript has been completed, and I am pleased to inform you that your manuscript has now been accepted for publication in our journal.
Thanks.