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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Synthesis, Biological Evaluation, and Molecular Modeling Studies of New 8-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-3-carbohydrazides as Potential Anti-HIV Agents

Mehrdad Alemi, Fatemeh Kamali, Rouhollah Roudsari, Zahra Hajimahdi, Afshin Zarghi

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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1 Original submission

1 comment · 23 Mar 2022

Editor-in-Chief

MINOR REVISION 23 Mar 2022

Antiviral drugs are one of the most important categories of drugs. In the present study, the authors designed some anti-HIV agents based on a literature review and their previous studies. The agents were synthesized and biologically evaluated. Based on the results, the compounds were potent, and one of them was the best. These compounds can be used as a pattern for developing other antiviral agents.
The study is valuable and, based on the reviewers' comments, needs minor revision.

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Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Editor-in-Chief

Thank you very much for the comments. All the revisions suggested by the peer reviewers are followed in the attached manuscript.

Revision based on concerns:

Reviewer 1:

- Thanks to the author team, the subject of study is one of the main concerns in the world. It should be noted that the design of synthesized compounds has good innovation, and the writing skill of the article is acceptable.
- Q: It is suggested that inserting the docking score of Zidovudine as a biological evaluation reference compound in table 1 could help better understand the relationship between docking and biological results.
- R: Zidovudine was tested as a reference compound for anti-HIV assay. Since it is not integrase inhibitor and inhibits HIV replication through different mechanism, it was not used in docking study.

Reviewer 3:

- Thank you for submitting your valuable work to Iranian Journal of Pharmaceutical Research. The study is very comprehensive and worth to be accepted; just some minor typing errors and recommendations are suggested below, which are highlighted in the attached file.
- Q: 1- Please check the highlighted parts, tracked changes, and comments.
- R: All the corrections were done and highlighted in the manuscript
- Q: 2- It is recommended to prepare figure 2 with the colored structures to demonstrate rational design better.
- R: Figure 2 was prepared with the colored structures.

We look forward to hearing from you in due time regarding our submission and to respond to any further questions and comments you may have.

Sincerely,
Dr. Zahra Hajimahdi

2 Revision 1

1 comment · 31 Mar 2022

Editor-in-Chief

ACCEPT 31 Mar 2022

The authors revised the manuscript based on reviewers' comments.