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.

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

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Peer Review Report for "Investigation of Possible Role of *Chlamydia* in Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome"

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Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 16 Jun 2021
Revised Date: 22 Jul 2021
Accepted Date: 24 Jul 2021

Revision (0)

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

Ali Mehrabi Tavana: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 30 Jun 2021

Dear AE,
Comments for the authors:
1- Improve your article by using very new references like:
- Jammal H, Abu Ameera M, Al Qudah N, Aldalaykeh M, Abukahel A, Al Amer A, Al Bdour M. Characteristics of Patients with Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome at a Tertiary Eye Care Center in Jordan: A Retrospective Chart Review. Ophthalmol Ther. 2021 Mar;10(1):51-61. doi: 10.1007/s40123-020-00319-w. Epub 2020 Oct 29. PMID: 33123988; PMCID: PMC7886922.
- Joshi RS, Singanwad SV. Frequency and surgical difficulties associated with pseudoexfoliation syndrome among Indian rural population scheduled for cataract surgery: Hospital-based data. Indian J Ophthalmol. 2019 Feb;67(2):221-226. doi: 10.4103/ijo.IJO_931_18. PMID: 30672474; PMCID: PMC6376804.
2- Write a paragraph about the public health aspect of the infection for the public at the end of your conclusion.
3- in conclusion, are you sure about the sentence " To our knowledge, this study is the first study in the literature showing the possible association between Chlamydia and PES." have you checked all litertures till now. recheck again.
Thanks.

Hadis Fathizadeh: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 2 Jul 2021

Dear AE,

Comments for authors:

The study entitled “Investigation of Possible Role of Chlamydia in Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome” is novel and interesting. However, some major concerns should be considered to improve the originality as well as the flow of the manuscript:

Abstract:

1- Current abstract needs to be rewritten. The structure of this abstract should be modified according to the instructions of the journal:

Background, Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions

The background section should be added and briefly explain the importance and necessity of this study.

Introduction:

2- The language and grammar used in the manuscript need to be improved. It should be checked by a native English speaker.

3- There should be a space between the punctuation and the next word.

4- Please, spell out abbreviations for the first time.

5- In the Introduction section, please provide several references for this sentence: "In several studies on PES, it has been observed that PES is associated with various systemic disorders but none has been carried out on Chlamydia associations of the disorder" (line 83-84).

Method:

6- At the beginning of the ELISA method, the purpose of doing this method is not written, in the method section.

7- At the end of the ELISA method, the measurement method and the device are not written

8- List the primer sequences used in this study.

Results:

9- The titles of Tables 1, 2, and 3 are not complete, for example, they should be written: IL-20 and IL-6 cytokine levels in the case group compared with the control group measured by the ELISA technique

10- please mention Figure1 in result section (main text).

11- In Figure 1, please indicate the band size of the ladder and the positive samples on the image.

12- Please explain more about #3 OR #5 in the footnotes of figure 1&2.

13- The quality and resolution of figure 2 is not enough and its contents cannot be recognized.

14- According to the journal instructions, figures and tables should be placed before references

Discussion:

15- Discussion should be started with definition of the finding and not similar to introduction. Or at least dedicate a shorter part to the definition of the disease. (lines 188-200)

16- In the discussion section, the study findings should be mentioned in general and there is no need to provide details such as p-value and refer to the table.

17- lines 249-252 would be better given in the introduction part. of course, with the reference (s).

18- In lines 261-269 and 282, details are not required.

19- The reference given for lines 210-212 is not valid. The content presented in these lines is not available in reference 26.
20- Similar and contradictory studies in the discussion are either very little or not mentioned at all.
If no study has been done exactly like your article, you can use studies that have looked at the possible role of chlamydia in diseases other than Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome.
21- Given that each scientific research has its strengths and limitations, it is advisable to discuss further the limitations of the study.
Thanks.

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

Dear AE,
Final decision: Manuscript is acceptable for publication after minor correction as bellow by the authors:
- Abstract: Acceptable
- Keywords could be: Interleukin-6, 20, Chlamydia, Pseudoexfoliation syndrome
- Introduction: Acceptable but could be better by wider literature review particularly related articles from domestic researchers.
- Methodology: Acceptable
- Results: Acceptable
- Discussion: Could be scientifical than the present level using more and wider literature review and explanation of related and domestic survey and of course then using from them as Bibliography/References.
Bibliography/References: More domestic Ref. is necessary. Authors should do more literature review for using related domestic articles and therefore some more domestic Ref. (using from domestic Ref. is the scientific discipline for publication of academic data.)
Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision (0)** 3 Jul 2021

Dear EIC,
The manuscript is studied, and there are some comments which should be addressed by the author. According to the comments, the document needs major revision.
Kind regards,

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision (0)** 3 Jul 2021

Dear Author,
Thank you for submitting your manuscript to JJM. I have completed the review of your manuscript and a summary is appended below (Pleases find attached files). The reviewers recommend the reconsideration of your paper following major revision. I invite you to resubmit your manuscript after addressing all reviewer comments.
1. Please answer point by point to reviewer's comments on a separate sheet under WORD format and write your modifications in the revised version (WORD format) in colored or highlighted letters.

2. Your answers to reviewers' queries are not only for the Editorial Board but for the readers and should be included, when appropriate, in the manuscript for improvement and a better understanding.
3. When resubmitting your manuscript, please carefully consider all issues mentioned in the reviewers' comments, outline every change made a point by point, and provide suitable rebuttals for any comments not addressed.
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https://sites.kowsarpub.com/jjm/knowledgebase/category/tree.html#orcid.html
Thanks.

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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

Final decision: Manuscript is acceptable for publication after minor correction as bellow:

Abstract: Acceptable

Keywords could be: Interleukin-6, 20, Chlamydia, Pseudoexfoliation syndrome

Answer: Keywords had been revised as ''Pseudoexfoliation syndrome, Chlamydia, , Interleukin-6, 20''.

Introduction: Acceptable but could be better by wider literature review particularly related articles from domestic researchers.

Answer: The introduction is expanded with different literatures including domestic reviewer.

(References:7, 10, 11, 12, 22, 23)

Methodology: Acceptable

Results: Acceptable

Discussion: Could be scientifically than present level using more and wider literature review and explanation of related and domestic survey and of course then using from them as Bibliography/References.

Answer: The references have been expanded upon the recommendation of the rewiver's.

(References: 18, 33, 34, 37 and 38)

Bibliography/References: More domestic Ref. is necessary. Authors should do more literature review for using related domestic articles and therefore some more domestic Ref. (using from domestic Ref. is scientific discipline for publication of academic data.

Answer: domestic reference had also been added to the references.

Reviewer-2

1-Improve your article by using very new references like:

Jammal H, Abu Ameera M, Al Qudah N, Aldalaykeh M, Abukahel A, Al Amer A, Al Bdour M. Characteristics of Patients with Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome at a Tertiary Eye Care Center in Jordan: A Retrospective Chart Review. Ophthalmol Ther. 2021 Mar;10(1):51-61. doi: 10.1007/s40123-020-00319-w. Epub 2020 Oct 29. PMID: 33123988; PMCID: PMC7886922.

Joshi RS, Singanwad SV. Frequency and surgical difficulties associated with pseudoexfoliation syndrome among Indian rural population scheduled for cataract surgery: Hospital-based data. Indian J Ophthalmol. 2019 Feb;67(2):221-226. doi: 10.4103/ijo.IJO_931_18. PMID: 30672474;PMCID:PMC6376804.

Answer: The work has been expanded with suggested references (references: 10 and 11)

2- Write a paragraph about the public health aspect of the infection for the public at the end of your conclusion.

Answer: "It is important for public health to elucidate the factors that may cause PES, because PEG is observed at a higher rate in patients with PES and also because of the complications of cataract surgery in these patients" statement has been added to the result section.

3-in conclusion, are you sure about the sentence " To our knowledge, this study is the first study in the literature showing the possible association between Chlamydia and PES." have you checked all litertures till now. recheck again.

Answer: The expression has been updated to “According to the literature review, no study has been identified investigating the link between *C. pneumoniae* and PES.” In addition, no similar study was found in the literature review.

Reviewer-3

Comments for authors:

The study entitled "Investigation of Possible Role of Chlamydia in Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome" is novel and interesting. However, some major concerns should be considered to improve the originality as well as the flow of the manuscript:

Abstract:

1- Current abstract needs to be rewritten. The structure of this abstract should be modified according to the instructions of the journal:

Background, Objectives, Methods, Results, Conclusions

The background section should be added and briefly explain the importance and necessity of this study.

Introduction:

Answer: "Background" has been added to the current summary.

2- The language and grammar used in the manuscript needs to be improved. It should be checked by a native English speaker.

Answer: The text has been revised.

3- There should be a space between the punctuation and the next word.

Answer: The text has been revised.

4- Please, spell out abbreviates for the first time.

Answer: Spell out were abbreviated for the first time.

5- In the Introduction section, please provide several references for this sentence: "In several studies on PES, it has been observed that PES is associated with various systemic disorders but none has been carried out on Chlamydia associations of the disorder" (line 83-84).

Answer: References added to the relevant section (References: 9, 12, 22, 23).

Method:

6- At the beginning of the ELISA method, the purpose of doing this method is not written, in the method section.

Answer: The purpose of the ELISA study was written in the relevant section.

7- At the end of the ELISA method, the measurement method and the device are not written

Answer: The measurement method and the device were written in the relevant section.

8- List the primer sequences used in this study.

Answer: The primer sequences used in the study were given.

Results:

9- The titles of Tables 1, 2, and 3 are not complete, for example, they should be written: IL-20 and IL-6 cytokine levels in the case group compared with the control group measured by ELISA technique

Answer: The explanations of the tables were arranged as suggested.

10- Please mention Figure1 in result section (main text).

Answer: In *result section* ‘’Fig. 1’’ has been added.

11- In Figure 1, please indicate the band size of the ladder and the positive samples on the image.

Answer: The picture had been revised as suggested.

12- Please explain more about #3 OR #5 in the footnotes of figure 1&2.

Answer: The explanations in the figure have been revised.

13- The quality and resolution of figure 2 is not enough and its contents cannot be recognized.

Answer: The quality of figure 2 had been improved and the content had been revised.

14- According to the journal instructions, figures and tables should be placed before references

Answer: figures and tables were placed before references.

Discussion:

15- Discussion should be started with definition of the finding and not similar to introduction. Or at least dedicate a shorter part to the definition of the disease. (lines 188-200)

Answer: Line 192-200 has been removed.

16- In the discussion section, the study findings should be mentioned in general and there is no need to provide details such as p-value and refer to the table.

Answer: The detail information mentioned had been removed from the text.

17- lines 249-252 would be better given in introduction part. of course, with the reference (s).

Answer: lines 249-252 were given in introduction part.

‘’ *C. pneumoniae* is a common infectious agent in the world that causes respiratory tract infections which accounting for approximately 10% of community-acquired pneumonia. In addition, the symptoms of *C. pneumoniae* infection range from asymptomatic to pneumonia and also cause various chronic diseases such as, atherosclerosis, asthma and arthritis (3,4). Moreover, it has been reported that *C. pneumoniae* may be linked with age-related macular degeneration (5).This pathogen interacts with different cell types such as epithelial cells, monocytes/macrophages, smooth muscle cells, and endothelial cells (4)’’

18- In lines 261-269 and 282, details are not required.

Answer: ‘’ There was a statistically significant difference between the two groups for anti- *C. pneumoniae* IgG ELISA results (p-value **0.0349**).’’

‘’ In addition, PCR study was performed on conjunctival swab samples taken from both groups.’’

the words mentioned above had been removed.

19- The reference given for lines 210-212 is not valid. The content presented in these lines is not available in reference 26.

Answer: source has been revised (see reference 31).

20- Similar and contradictory studies in the discussion are either very little or not mentioned at all.

If no study has been done exactly like your article, you can use studies that have looked at the possible role of chlamydia in diseases other than Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome.

Answer: possible role of chlamydia in diseases other than Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome was added in discussion section (reference: 33, 34).

21- Given that each scientific research has its strengths and limitations, it is advisable to discuss further the limitations of the study.

Answer: The discussion section had been revised.

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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) 24 Jul 2021

Dear EIC
Manuscript is completely revised according to reviewer comments by authors and it is acceptable for publishing.
Regards

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (1) 24 Jul 2021

Dear Author,
I am pleased to inform you that your manuscript has been accepted for publication in the Jundishapur Journal of Microbiology and sent to the publisher for the next process. Please remember to always include your manuscript number, whenever inquiring about your manuscript. When you receive the proofs for your article, please check all names and affiliations very carefully, as these cannot be corrected once the article is published. Moreover, Please add the ORCID number to you and your collages account as soon as possible. For more details
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