Jundishapur Journal of Microbiology
Volume 17 · Issue 2 · e143683

OPEN PEER REVIEW

The Effect of Melatonin on the Expression of H19, MALAT, HOTAIR, THRIL, and NOS Activity in *Leishmania major*-Infected Macrophages

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SUBMITTED	REVISED	ACCEPTED	DOI
5 Dec 2023	26 Feb 2024	27 Feb 2024	10.5812/jjm-143683

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

2 comments · 27 Dec 2023 – 7 Feb 2024

Referee 1 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 27 Dec 2023

The manuscript evaluated the effect of melatonin on the expression of MALAT and HOTAIR in Leishmania major-infected macrophages.

First of all, the language of the manuscript needs to be revised.
The conclusion mirrors the results. What is the practical application, and what are your suggestions for future work?
Line 29: ¨Leishmaniasis is a rare infectious disease¨. I do not agree with this expression.
The introduction section needs background information on melatonin.
Line 158: ¨Leishmania protozoa cause leishmaniasis through infecting macrophages¨. Please edit this sentence.
The references must be evaluated again, e.g., the names of authors and journals are missing from some references, such as ref 4.
The placement of reference 1 is not suitable. It is a case report, but it is listed as reference 1. What does it have to do with it?

Associate Editor

MAJOR REVISION 7 Feb 2024

Based on the reviewers' comments and suggestions and my own evaluation, the manuscript can be accepted for publication after major 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.

Authors' Response to the Review Comments	
Journal:	Jundishapur Journal of Microbiology
Manuscript ID:	143683
Title of manuscript	The effect of melatonin on expression of H19, MALAT, HOTAIR, THRIL and NOS activity in leishm*ania* major-infected macrophages
Authors	Saina Karami, Reza Arjmand, Jasem Saki, Dian Dayer, Ali Jelowdar

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

We are highly pleased to have an opportunity to revise and resubmit our manuscript entitled "**The effect of melatonin on expression of H19, MALAT, HOTAIR, THRIL and NOS activity in leishmania major-infected macrophages**" (Reference Number: 143683) in **Jundishapur Journal of Microbiology**. We greatly appreciate you, the editors and the reviewer for taking time to provide constructive comments which helped improve this manuscript. We have carefully considered your comments and insightful queries rose by reviewer and tried to provide a detailed response to each comment raised by reviewer.

Best Regards

Dr. Arjmand

Reviewers' Comments:

Reviewer 1:

The manuscript evaluated the effect of melatonin on expression of MALAT and HOTAIR in Leishmania major-infected macrophages.

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. We also thank you for taking the time to review our manuscript. In the revised manuscript, we have used yellow color/Track Change to highlight our changes in the manuscript. We have addressed each of your concerns as outlined below. We hope that the current revised version is now acceptable. In the meantime, we would be pleased to respond to any further concerns that you may have in this regard.

First of all, the language of the manuscript needs to be revised.

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. The manuscript was revised by a native speaker.

The conclusion is a mirror of results, what is the practical application and your suggestions for future works.

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. It was revised based on your comment.

Line 29: ¨Leishmaniasis is a rare infectious disease¨. I do not agree with this expression.

Response: Thank you for your valuable comments. It was revised based on your comment.

The introduction section needs a background regarding melatonin.

Response: Thank you for your valuable comments. It was revised based on your comment.

Line 158: ¨Leishmania protozoa cause leishmaniasis through infecting macrophages¨ please edit this sentence.

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. It was revised based on your comment.

The references must be evaluated again, e.g., the names of authors and Journals are missing some references, such as ref 4.

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. All ref. were revised based on your comment and the guideline of journal.

The place of reference 1 is not suitable, it is a case report but it is placed in the reference 1. What does it have to do with it?

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. It was revised based on your comment.

Reviewer 2:

Dear Editor

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript titled “The effect of melatonin on expression of H19, MALAT, HOTAIR, THRIL and NOS activity in Leishmania major-infected macrophages”. I would like to appreciate the authors' effort to undertake this valuable task. Based on my point of view I raised the following points that I believed might improve the manuscript. This work plans to assess the effect of melatonin on expression of H19, MALAT, HOTAIR, THRIL and NOS activity in Leishmania major-infected macrophages. This kind of researches provides baseline information for future studies. Find my specific comments below.

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. We also thank you for taking the time to review our manuscript. In the revised manuscript, we have used yellow color/Track Change to highlight our changes in the manuscript. We have addressed each of your concerns as outlined below. We hope that the current revised version is now acceptable. In the meantime, we would be pleased to respond to any further concerns that you may have in this regard.

Major concern:

Line 79: The authors stated that they were purchased promastigotes of Leishmania major from Iranian Biological Resource Center (IBRC). Has anything been done to confirm promastigotes of Leishmania major?

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. Iranian Biological Resource Center (IBRC) is a valid center. However, this is very important to confirm promastigotes of *Leishmania major* that is why we have done PCR on promastigotes and they were approved as *Leishmania major* (data has been not shown). This important opinion was added to the manuscript in the method part.

Minor concern

Abstarct

Line 9, 13: Change LncRNAs to lncRNAs

Response: Thank you for your good comments. It was changed based on your comment.

The conclusion is a summary of the results. It seems that it should be rewritten.

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. It was revised based on your comment.

There are keywords that do not match with the Medical subject headings (MeSH). Please check the MeSH browser and then provide proper keywords that match with the browser.

Response: Thank you, we have tried to write all keywords based on MeSH. However, if you have any comments, we will change the keywords according to your opinion.

Introduction

Line 29: Leishmaniasis is a rare infectious disease. It seems that the "rare" is not applicable here.

Response: Thank you for your good comments. It was revised based on your comment.

Line 31: It seems that reference numbers 1-4 are not suitable references for the sentences. Appropriate global references should be used for these parts

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. It was revised based on your comment.

Line 52 : Change Leishmaniasis to leishmaniasis

Response: Thank you for your good comments. It was changed based on your comment.

Line 52,68,70: Change LncRNAs to lncRNAs

Response: Thank you for your good comments. It was changed based on your comment.

Line 60: please add the appropriate reference for the sentence.

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. It was added based on your comment.

Methods

Line 97: add cat number and purity of melatonin

Response: Thank you for your good comments. It was added based on your comment.

Line 98: Write the percentage of DMSO used

Response: Thank you for your opinion. Melatonin was purchased from Sigma company and dissolved in DMSO (with purity 99%). The cells were treated with melatonin at concentrations of 3, 10, 30 and 100 nM. In fact, this method was carried out in two ways, one as a treated group (*Leishmania*-infected macrophages treated with melatonin) and another as control (*Leishmania*-infected macrophages treated with DMSO). In this part, the DMSO is solvent, and the amount of melatonin as the soluble substance is important, not the solvent. DMSO was considered as negative control for removing any intervention in our study. In the meantime, we would be pleased to respond to any further concerns that you may have in this regard.

Line 104: samples were fixed with ethanol and then stained by Giemsa method??? fixed with ethanol or methanol??

Response: Thank you for your good question. We have made a mistake and thanks a lot for your acuity. Samples were fixed with methanol.

Results:

Figure 1: has no quality and is not clear

Response: We value your constructive and valuable feedback. The figure was improved in response to your comment.

The authors have made good observations in the study and the discussion has been written well.

Response: Thank you for your comment.

- All scientific names in the manuscript and reference list must be in italic.

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. All ref. were revised based on your comment and the guideline of journal.

References

- Italicize the scientific names (Leishmania tropica in REF 13)

- Journal names should appear in abbreviation.

- No journal name should start with "the"

- Books need city.

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. All ref. were revised based on your comment and the guideline of journal.

Associate Editor's Comments:

Associate Editor 1:

Based on the reviewers' comments and suggestions and my own evaluation, the manuscript can be accepted for publication after major revision.

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. We also thank you for taking the time to review our manuscript. In the revised manuscript, we have used yellow color/Track Change to highlight our changes in the manuscript. We have addressed each of your concerns as outlined below. We hope that the current revised version is now acceptable. In the meantime, we would be pleased to respond to any further concerns that you may have in this regard.

EIC Decision:

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 the 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. Moreover, add continuous line numbers for text and put suitable line numbers for each response.

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.

4. In addition, JJM INSTRUCTION is attached to the mail, please find it.

5. Please add the ORCID number into you and your collages account, then automatically appear in your published papers in JJM both in HTML and pdf. Pleases follow the below link for the process.

https://sites.kowsarpub.com/jjm/knowledgebase/category/tree.html#orcid.html

Response: We are appreciative of your constructive and valuable comments. We also thank you for taking the time to review our manuscript. In the revised manuscript, we have used yellow color/Track Change to highlight our changes in the manuscript. We have addressed each of your concerns as outlined below. We hope that the current revised version is now acceptable. In the meantime, we would be pleased to respond to any further concerns that you may have in this regard.

2 Revision 1

0 comments

No public comments in this round.