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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Evaluation of the Effect of Oxygen-Rich Water as an Adjunct to Supportive Therapy in Improving the Clinical Condition of Patients with COVID-19: A Randomized Controlled, Double-Blind Clinical Trial

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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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Contents

1 **Original submission** Referee 1, Marzieh Jamalidoust 2
2 **Revision 1** 3
Authors' reply to reviewers 4
Reviewer and editor comments 6
3 **Revision 2** 7
Authors' reply to reviewers 8
Reviewer and editor comments 9

1 Original submission

2 comments · 23 Jun 2024 – 2 Jul 2024

Referee 1 Reviewer

REJECT 23 Jun 2024

I read the article carefully. I recommend that the article be rejected.

Marzieh Jamalidoust Reviewer

MINOR REVISION 2 Jul 2024

Dear Editor-in-Chief of "Jundishapur Journal of Microbiology"
Thank you very much for sending a manuscript for review. The study, entitled " Evaluation of the effect of oxygen-rich water as an adjunct to supportive therapy in improving the clinical condition of patients with Covid-19: A randomized controlled, double-blind clinical trial", focuses on assessing the impact of oxygenated water on respiratory rate and enhancing SPO2 levels among affected patients.
The research topic is intriguing and important due to its underexplored nature.
Specific points:
1- Considering that the manuscript was written in 2024, the first paragraph of the introduction should be rewritten.
2- Please explain what stage of the disease the patients with COVID-19 were in. Was their disease moderate, severe, or critical?
3- Full footnotes with additional explanations are required for the tables. Please correct them.
4- Change the tables from statistical mode to article format.
5- Considering that the participating volunteers consumed water every 4 hours, what is the logical reason for checking the respiratory rate and SO2 at the times mentioned in table-3?
6- The manuscript specifies that the respiratory rate and SO2 levels were checked 5 min before and after water consumption in both study groups. However, Table 3 mentions different time points such as 8, 12, and so on. Can you please clarify this discrepancy?
7- Lastly, can oxygen from oxygenated water be absorbed into the bloodstream through the intestine within 5 minutes of consumption to assess its impact?

Minor points:
1- The "Key" should be written with a lowercase letter in the middle of the sentence at line 39.
2- "covid" must be changed to "COVID-19" throughout the manuscript.
3- An extra period has been included in line 90. Please correct it.
4- Kindly add a reference to the end of line 229.
5- Can you clarify the author's interpretation of "two groups" mentioned in line 251?

Best regard

2

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.

Dear reviewer1

Thank you for the efforts of the esteemed:

COMMENT 1: Statistical tables were converted to article format.Two graphs were included in the text.

COMMENT 2: The intended points has been corrected (highlighted on lines 6 and 67)

Dear reviewer 2

Thank you for the efforts of the esteemed:

Specific points

COMMENT 1: It was corrected according to the opinion of the respected reviewer (highlighted in line 26).

COMMENT 2: The intended point has been corrected (highlighted on lines 7 and 53)

COMMENT 3: The footnotes of the tables were written in full (highlighted on lines 77-79, 95-96 and 107-108)

COMMENT 4: Statistical tables were converted to article format.

COMMENT 5: The design of this study was based on the research by Eble et al. (14), who observed an increase in blood oxygen levels within 5 minutes after the consumption of oxygenated water, as well as the study by Pakdaman (2), which reported the persistence of the oxygen effect in raising blood oxygen levels for several hours (3 to 4 hours).

COMMENT 6: The hours mentioned in Table 8 refer to specific times of the day: 8 AM, 12 PM, 4 PM, 8 PM and 12 AM, during which the patients consumed oxygenated water. This information has been added to the **Subjects and Methods** section.

COMMENT 7: The results of this study also address the claim made in the Pakdaman research, which states that the absorption of oxygen through the mucous membranes of the mouth and the gastrointestinal tract begins. Given the immediate and short-term effects of oxygenated water on blood oxygen levels, the claim of oxygen absorption through the intestines is questionable) According to Piantadosi's study((highlighted on lines165-167).

Minor points

COMMENT 1: The text was authored for a new edition.

COMMENT 2: Replaced "covid" with "COVID-19" throughout the manuscript)highlighted on lines 2,6,7,18 and 53).

COMMENT 3: The intended point has been corrected.

COMMENT 4: A reference was added for the text((highlighted on line 162).

COMMENT 5: A comprehensive explanation was provided(highlighted on lines 179-180).

Sincerely yours

2 Revision 1

0 comments

No public comments in this round.

3

Revision 2

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.

Dear Associate Editor

Thank you for the efforts of the esteemed:

Your Comments*:* The authors need to complete the legends and footnotes of Tables.

The legends and footnotes for the tables and figures were fully completed (highlighted on lines 72,87, 106,110,113,115 and 121).

Sincerely yours

3 Revision 2

0 comments

No public comments in this round.