Shiraz E-Medical Journal
Volume 23 · Issue 12 · e122982

OPEN PEER REVIEW

The Effect of Oral Cinnamon Capsule on the Treatment and Recurrence of Candidal Vaginitis: A Double-blind Randomized Clinical Trial

Elham Zare, Roya Najafi, Elham Zare, Maryam Afrakhteh, Faraz Mojab, Hamid Alavi Majd

SUBMITTED	REVISED	ACCEPTED	DOI
31 Jan 2022	18 Oct 2022	30 Oct 2022	10.5812/semj-122982

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.

More about open peer review: brieflands.com/knowledgebase/opr

Contents

1 **Original submission** Editor-in-Chief 2
2 **Revision 1** Editor-in-Chief 3
Authors' reply to reviewers 4
Reviewer and editor comments 5
3 **Revision 2** Associate Editor 6
Authors' reply to reviewers 7
Reviewer and editor comments 8
4 **Revision 3** 9
Authors' reply to reviewers 10
Reviewer and editor comments 12
5 **Revision 4** 13
Authors' reply to reviewers 14
Reviewer and editor comments 18

1 Original submission

1 comment · 10 Mar 2022

Editor-in-Chief

MAJOR REVISION 10 Mar 2022

Major

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 associate editor

1- Recurrence of candida vaginitis after 2 months means: discharge or itching, with or without clinical signs and symptoms (burning,dyspareunia,suprapubic pain, dysuria)
2- Diagnosis is replaced of chief complaint in line 58
3- using of any type of antibiotic in 2 weeks can influence the flora of vagina. more over using antibiotics can significantly treat the Volvo vaginitis or suppress the function of fungal and bacterial flora and alleviate the signs and symptoms.
4- Spectrum of PH is corrected to4-4.5
5- In line 127, economy status was better in cinnamon group. Highlight ed in file.
6- In line 135, it was mentioned that criterias were demonstrated in table 2 completely. So I didn't discuss and explain them in the text for more. But for microscopically wet smear I didn't insert any table, so I had to explain them in the text.
7- After 2 months, sign and symptoms such as discharge ,itching, burning, dysprenia, suprapubic pain,dysuria was examined and asked by researcher and checklist was done.
8- In line168, patient was replaced by sample. People is also replaced by Patient .
9- In the placebo group, this improvement was reported after completing the 7 days, and even after two months of follow-up. But In cinnamon group after 4 days improvement was obvious.
10- In line 191, "was not" is deleted. It was and editorial error
11- In line 202, this study means fooladi et al study,which I corrected it in the text to " their study"
12- In line 202-211 I mentioned some researchers name, but some reviwer s don't like to name the researcher, so I mixe some name and some refrences. But after reviwer s comment , ccording to their priority I manage these lines better.
13- Unit means sample or patient in our study. I corrected that in text.

2 Revision 1

1 comment · 9 Jul 2022

Editor-in-Chief

MINOR REVISION 9 Jul 2022

Minor Revision

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 editors

Thanks for your management

I had received just one comment and minor revision, so:

I briefly describe table 2 in the text and highlighted the paragraph, but table 2 demonstrated the data completely and I didn’t insert any explanation in the text, but now according to reviewers comment I briefly explain.

thanx

3 Revision 2

1 comment · 10 Sep 2022

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 10 Sep 2022

Accept

4

Revision 3

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 chief editor

Thanks for your nice comments, your comments have been highlighted in gray and my replies are in next line of each comment with addressing.

1. *Please revise typo errors like “includd” and “deffrence”.*
   All typist errors were edited and highlighted in text like included, april., in line 9,10.
2. *Please use “convenient sampling” instead of “purposive method”.*
   I used convenient sampling instead of purposive method in line 11.
3. *Please use “P-value” instead of “P.Value”.*
   P-value inserted in line 16 and replaced in all of them.
4. *Significant decrease of itching (from 83% to 11%), burning (from71% to 5%) suprapelvic pain (from 65% to 3.3%), dyspareunia (from 80% to 7%) appeared on the 7th day of treatment in which group? Also you must report exact P-values.*
   In line 17,18,19,20 all exact p-value were footnoted and cinnamon group was inserted too.
5. *What do you mean by P<0.003? Report exact P-values.*
   P=0.003 was inserted in footnote as 2 also indicate in line 17.
6. *The effect size=0.6 based on which previous study? Give reference.*
   Reference 13 was inserted in line 67 page 4.

7. Method of random allocation is not clear.
It was described 90,91,92,93 in page 5.
8. How about the other arms of blinding?
Page 6 line 112,114,115 described the blinding method of the study.
9. Reported results are not quantitative. Use descriptive statistics and also report exact P-values.
All related result was inserted in table 1 in the first part, line 128, page6. In next part descriptive statistic and exact p-value were described in page7, line130,131,133. All data were obvious in tables. Also in page 7 and 8, lines 149-152 were shown test result and p value to. Because of numerous data of signs and symptoms , we decided to clarify them in tables instead of texts.
10. What do you mean by “were satisfactory”?
Page 7, line 148 was edited to statistically significant.
11. Revise “z = -123.4, z < 001”.
It was edited in page 8, line 152 to z<001.
12. Report and compare whole the demographic variables between groups in a table.
Demographic variables were fully described in new inserted Table 1 page 6, line 128.
13. Revise “P<0.00.1” in Table 2.
It was edited in table 2 which was edited to table 3 page 15. In fact all exact p values were edited to correct form.
14. Report whole the pair wise comparisons in Table 2.

All symptoms were compared in two groups as well. symptoms were highlighted in red (like page 8, line 171,page 9,line 181 and 189/page 10 line 197 and 201)and description were highlighted in yellow below each symptom.

Best regards

Corresponding author: Dr.F.N

4 Revision 3

0 comments

No public comments in this round.

5

Revision 4

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 Reviewer

1-Exact P- value insert in the result part of abstract. These changes made on line 17-22.(significant decrease of itching (from 83% to 11%)(P-value=0.001), burning (from71% to5%) (P-value=0.003) supra pelvic pain (from 65% to 3.3%) (P-value=0.001), dyspareunia (from 80% to 7%)(P-value=0.001) appeared on the 7th day of treatment in Cinnamon group. In placebo group significant decrease was shown in itching (from 90% to 20%)(P-value=0.001), burning (from 81.7% to8.3%) (P-value=0.001), dyspareunia (from 78% to 35%)(P-value=0.001) and suprapubic pain (from 68% to16.7%)(P-value=0.001). Recurrence in cinnamon group after 2 months was 45% (P-value=0.001), but in placebo was 71.7%(P-value=0.003) . In There were no adverse effects of cinnamon recorded.)

2-Result became more quantitative and highlighted in blue.page 6-7-8, Line 137 to 157. Mann-Whitney and Chi-square tests also showed that interfering variables such as the number of intercourse per week(P-value=0.084), methods of pregnancy prevention(P-value=0.181), use of tight underwear and pants(P-value=0.358), use of cotton underwear(P-value=0.831), wet underwear(P-value=0.256), use The pool(P-value=0.509), bathtub and public bath(P-value=0.408) are also the same in two groups.

Table (2) shows the frequency distribution of signs and symptoms in the pre-treatment evaluation in cinnamon and placebo groups. Distribution of discharge in cinnamon group VS placebo was 51% vs 47% (P=0.345) itching 50%vs54% (P=0.283), burning 43% vs 49%(P=0.195), dyspareunia 48%vs47% (P=0.822), suprapubic pain 39%vs 41%(P=0.699) and dysuria 26%vs25% (P=0.853) Chi-square test between the two groups showed no significant differences in symptoms and signs

According McNemar's test, significant treatment effects in cinnamon group began from 4th day and remained to 2 months later (P< 0.001). but vaginal discharge treatment occurred in 7th day (p<0. 001). In placebo group itching and burning decreased significantly in 4th and 7th days(P<0.001), vaginal discharge increased significantly in 4th day(P=0.001). Dyspareunia(P<0.001), dysuria(P=0.02) and suprapubic pain(P=0.001) decreased in just 7th day and all signs and symptoms of vaginitis recurred at 2months later following up.

The results of the Cochran test for comparing the ratio of positive cultures and positive wet smear in the two groups were statistically significant. Comparison of positive wet smear before treatment and the seventh day, in the cinnamon group from 100% to 14% (P <0.001), in the placebo group from 100% to 42% (P <0. 001) showed a significant decrease. Positive culture before treatment (100%) of cinnamon group to 28% (P< 0.001) and in placebo group from 100% to 66% (P <0.001, p < 0.001) was reduced. Although a positive effect was evaluated in both groups, in the comparison between the two chi-square test groups, it was shown that cinnamon and clotrimazole had a greater effect on negative culture and wet smear than placebo and clotrimazole (P <0.002).

3-Z statistic was removed from the test. Page 7 and 8,Line 152-157.(in the cinnamon group from 100% to 14% (P <0.001), in the placebo group from 100% to 42% (P <0. 001) showed a significant decrease. Positive culture before treatment (100%) of cinnamon group to 28% (P< 0.001) and in placebo group from 100% to 66% (P <0.001, p < 0.001) was reduced. Although a positive effect was evaluated in both)

4-K2 was edited to$\chi 2$ in page 12,table 1.

Group Variable		Cinnamon and clotrimazole N(60)	Placebo and clotrimazole N(60)	test P-value
Age(mean± SD)		30.7±6.6	31.16±8.2	t-test P-value=./61
Body Mass Index(mean± SD)		19.25±3.9	24.86±4.4	t-test P-value=./45
Gravidity(mean± SD)		1.1± .25	1.1±.32	Mann-Whitney U test P-value=./68
Number of Childs (mean± SD)		1.30±1.01	1.40±1.41	Mann-Whitney U test P-value=./45
Education N(%)	Elementary	7(11.6)	14(23.4)	Mann-Whitney U test P-value=./42
	High school	45(75)	36(60)	
	Academic	8(13.4)	10(16.6)	
Husband's education N(%)	Elementary	5(8.3)	15(25)	Mann-Whitney U test *P-value=./002
	High school	41(68.3)	39(65)	
	Academic	14(23.4)	6(10)	
Job	House wife	48(80)	46(76.6)	χ^2 test P-value=./95
	Employee	6(10)	7(11.4)	
	Worker	2(3.3)	2(3.5)	
	Self – employment	4(6.7)	5(8.5)	
Husband's job	Retired /not unemployed	2(3.3)	2(3.3)	χ^2 test *P-value=./001
	Employed	26(43.3)	9(15.1)	
	Worker	9(15)	25(41.6)	
	Self-employed	23(38.4)	24(40)	
House status	Rental	37(61.6)	42(70)	χ^2 test P-value=./33
	Private	23(38.4)	18(30)	

Income	Low income	40(66.6)	52(87)	Mann-Whitney U test *P-value=./011
	Middle	18(30)	7(11.4)	
	Appropriate	2(3.34)	1(1.6)	

5-Use . for decimal in all the tables and text errors. It is not possible to note all of them here, but edited in text

6-Mc-nemar's test was inserted in the text but there is not possible to include it in the table too.page7, line 146. According McNemar's test, significant treatment effects in cinnamon group began from 4th day and remained to 2 months later (P< 0.001). but vaginal discharge treatment occurred in 7th day

5 Revision 4

0 comments

No public comments in this round.