OPEN PEER REVIEW

Open Peer Review (OPR)

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 "Comparing the Effects of Oleoresin of *Pistacia atlantica* Tree and Diclofenac Gel on the Knee Osteoarthritis Improvement"

Author(s): Mahtab Peivastegan, Mehdi Rajabi, Hamid Zaferani Arani, Maedeh Olya, Hesam Adin Atashi, Shahla Abolghasemi

Review Timeline:

Submit Date:	28 Dec 2019
Revised Date:	24 Feb 2020
Accepted Date:	28 Feb 2020

Revision (0)

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

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 2 Feb 2020

Dear AE,
There are some comments which should be addressed by the author:
- The manuscript, particularly, the abstract section needs language editing.
- There is a need to mention the dosage of the comparator in detail.
- In the method section, I suggest the authors modify the subheading, for example, use study design instead of the clinical trial or efficacy assessment instead of WOMAC questionnaire
- Adding the Flow diagram of participants from enrolment to analysis is suggested.
- Please add the female/male variable to the table for characteristics of patients
- What is the time duration of a clinical trial? Please clarify the time. The authors mentioned in the first paragraph of clinical trials on page 5: “The clinical trial was conducted for a period of one and half a year at the orthopedic clinic of Buali Hospital, Iran”. While in the next paragraph they indicated “After receiving patients agreed to participate in the trial,……, they were asked to follow the perscribtion for the period of three months.
- Revise the table with considering the exact name of statistical test which is used to assess significant difference between interventions.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 2 Feb 2020

Dear AE,
Thanks for this valuable research. My comments can be found as follows:
Abstract
- Please revise this section for English writing.
- Line before the last line(The main reason for the high anti-inflammatory effect of P. atlantica was due to the high analgesic effect of α-pinene (the main component of P. atlantica) and anti-inflammatory effect of P. atlantica): I did not get the meaning of this sentence. Especially the phrase: "and anti-inflammatory effect of P. atlantica."
- The whole body of the manuscript:
Please revise it for English writing.
Background & Objectives
- The first sentence: Please revise this sentence. It is too long and I think it would be better to revise the sequence of its clauses.
- The second paragraph: Is the word "adulteries" appropriate for this sentence? I did not understand the meaning.
- Page 3, the paragraph before the last paragraph: I suggest that replace "elderly people" with "elderly population" or "elderlies".
- Page 4: Please revise the sentence "In recent studies, it has been reported that Pistacia atlantica has remarkable antioxidant, antibacterial, antifungal, anti-oxidant properties". anti-oxidant has been repeated.
Methods
- The last paragraph of section 2.4: Please revise the sentences. For example, message or massage?
- Section 2.4: How was diclofenac gel instruction of use? Was it the same with P. atlantica cream? Please mention this.
- Section 2.4: Why did authors select this instruction (three times per month at a dose of 2 grams …)? Please mention the related reference or the rationalization.
- The gender and co-morbidities of participants are not important? I think they might confound the treatment outcomes. Please address this issue. If these variables are not important, please mention this. If they are important (They affect the outcome), mention their initial and final (after exclusion of some cases) frequency in each group.
Figure 1:
- I suggest that shorten the figure title.
Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) 4 Feb 2020

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) 7 Feb 2020

Dear Author,

The reviewers' comments are mentioned. Please correct the details as mentioned above carefully according to reviewers' request.

Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

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.

Dear reviewers/editorial team,

The authors are grateful for your valuable comments which helps to publish our work with highest impact. Comments are respond point by point as follow. The altered parts are track changed in the manuscript. All comments are done in the MS.

Manuscript ID:	98293
Title:	Comparing the Effects of Oleoresin of Pistacia Atlantica Tree and Diclofenac Gel in Improving the Knee Osteoarthritis

Best regards

Reviewer 1:

- The manuscript, particularly, abstract section needs language editing.

Done.

- There is need to mention dosage of comparator in details.

Done.

- In method section I suggest the authors modify subheading, for example use study design instead of clinical trial or efficacy assessment instead of WOMAC questionnaire

Done.

- Adding the Flow diagram of participants from enrolment to analysis is suggested.

Done.

- Please add the female/male variable to the table for characteristics of patients

Done in the **study design** and **Result**.

- What is the time duration of clinical trial? Please clarify the time. The authors mentioned in first paragraph of clinical trials at page 5: “The clinical trial was conducted for a period of one and half a year at the orthopedic clinic of Buali Hospital, Iran”. While in next paragraph they

indicated “After receiving patients agreement to participate in the trial,……, they were asked to follow the perscribtion for the period of three months.

Done.

- Revise the table with considering the exact name of statistical test which is used to assess significant difference between interventions.

I have consulted with the statistics specialist of this study and according to him, Chi-square and Repeated Measures ANOVA tests were used as the statistical tests for our study.

The revision of table was done according to your respectable comment and with consultation of our statistics specialist.

Reviewer 2:

Thank you for your valuable research. My comments can be found as followings:

Abstract

- Please revise this section for English writing.

Done.

- Line before the last line (The main reason of high anti-inflammatory effect of P. atlantica was due to the high analgesic effect of α-pinene (the main component of P. atlantica) and antiinflammatory effect of P. atlantica): I did not get the meaning of this sentence. Especially the phrase: "and anti-inflammatory effect of P. atlantica."

Done.

- The whole body of the manuscript:

Please revise it for English writing.

Done.

Background & Objectives

- The first sentence: Please revise this sentence. It is too long and I think it would be better to revise the sequence of its clauses.

Done.

- The second paragraph: Is the word "adulteries" appropriate for this sentence? I did not understand the meaning.

Done.

- Page 3, the paragraph before the last paragraph: I suggest that replace "elderly people" with "elderly population" or "elderlies".

Done.

- Page 4: Please revise the sentence "In recent studies, it has been reported that Pistacia atlantica has remarkable antioxidant, antibacterial, antifungal, anti-oxidant properties". anti-oxidant has been repeated.

Done.

Methods

- The last paragraph of the section 2.4: Please revise the sentences. For example, message or massage?

Done.

- Section 2.4: How was diclofenac gel instruction of use? Was it the same with P. atlantica cream? Please mention this.

Done.

- Section 2.4: Why did authors selected this instruction (three times per month at dose of 2 grams …)? Please mention the related reference or the rationalization.

Done.

- The gender and co-morbidities of participants are not important? I think they might confound the treatment outcomes. Please address this issue. If these variables are not important, please mention this. If they are important (They affect the outcome), mention their initial and final (after exclusion of some cases) frequency in each group.

The gender was added in the **study design** and **Result.**

Figure 1:

- I suggest that shorten the figure title.

Done.

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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: EIC | **Revision (1)** 28 Feb 2020

Dear Author,
The document is reviewed carefully by the reviewers. According to their comments and your revisions as requested, this manuscript is accepted.
Thanks.