Zahedan Journal of Research in Medical Sciences
Volume 26 · Issue 2 · e143020

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Antioxidative Effects of Hydro-Alcoholic Extract and Essential Oil of *Quercus brantii* Exerts Anti-Depressant-Like Effect and Improvement of Memory Defect in Progesterone-Induced Postpartum Depression in Rats

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SUBMITTED	REVISED	ACCEPTED	DOI
13 Nov 2023	7 Jan 2024	27 Jan 2024	10.5812/zjrms-143020

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

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1 Original submission

3 comments · 27 Nov 2023 – 20 Dec 2023

Mohammad Nasri Reviewer

MINOR REVISION 27 Nov 2023

Dear researcher(s)
Your manuscript has been reviewed. Although several parts of your manuscript are written accurately, especially the protocol, I have seen several errors in other parts.
In the meantime, there are some questions:
1- In some parts (for example, Figure 4-B), there seems to be a significant difference between more groups. This is despite the fact that fewer groups have been investigated. Please check the information again and correct it if necessary.
2- In reviewing behavioral tests, it is necessary to consider information from past studies (Reference 6) and improve the writing of the results.
3- For the size and samples of tables and charts, seek guidance from previously published articles.
4- Use different symbols to mark significance between groups.

Associate Editor

MAJOR REVISION 19 Dec 2023

The grammar should be checked, and the reviewers' comments should be addressed carefully and step by step.

Editor-in-Chief

MAJOR REVISION 20 Dec 2023

Dear Author,
Your article has been reviewed carefully. According to the reviewers' comments, this document needs major revision. Please follow their comments as requested.

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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.

Dear Prof. Noor Mohammad Noori

Chairman

Alireza Bakhshipour

Editor-in-Chief

Manuscript No: 143020

Title: Antioxidative effects of hydro-alcoholic extract and essential oil of *Quercus brantii* exerts anti-depressant like effect and improvement of memory defect in progesterone induced postpartum depression in rat

Dear Prof. Noor Mohammad Noori:

Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript. We also greatly appreciate the reviewers for their complimentary comments and suggestions. We have revised the manuscript according to the reviewer's suggestion.

Please find attached a point-by-point response to the reviewer's concerns. We hope that you find our responses satisfactory and that the manuscript is now acceptable for publication.

Sincerely,

S. T

Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Ahvaz, Iran

Response to Reviewer 1

We appreciate the reviewer's comments. The followings are our point-by-point responses:

1. In some parts (for example, Figure 4-B), there seems to be a significant difference between more groups. This is despite the fact that it has been investigated among fewer groups. Please check the information again and correct it if necessary.

Response: *Thank you for bringing up the point regarding the improvement of our paper. After conducting a comprehensive reanalysis of the research data, it has been determined that the graphs are accurate. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was employed for the data analysis, and Tukey Post hoc statistical tests were utilized to compare data across various groups. Additionally, the student t-test was employed to compare two groups.*

2. In reviewing behavioural tests, it is necessary to consider the information of past studies (Reference 6) and consider better writing for the results.

Response: *We thank the reviewer for this suggestion. Some of these parts have been rewritten and track-changed in the text.*

3. For the size and samples of tables and charts, take help from previously published articles.

Response: *Thank you for addressing the points regarding the improvement of our paper. The sizes of the figures in this article have been determined based on the standard measurements typically used in reputable publications, which are 17.4 centimeters in length and 13 centimeters in width. If there is a requirement to adjust the proportions of the figures and charts, please inform me of the preferred measurements so that the necessary modifications can be made accordingly.*

4. Use different symbols to mark significance between groups.

Response: *Thanks for pointing out this issue. The symbols have changed.*

Response to Reviewer 2

We appreciate the reviewer's comments. The followings are our point-by-point responses:

1. Significant levels should be reported in the results

Response: *Thanks for pointing out this issue. The text is now corrected.*

2. Page 5 the sentence is incomplete and should be corrected

Response: *We thank the reviewer for this valuable suggestion. The text is corrected.*

3. Why did you choose intraperitoneal injections?

Response: *Thanks for bringing up this issue. There are several reasons why intraperitoneal injections are often preferred over oral administration. Firstly, the absorption of substances through the gastrointestinal tract can be variable and unpredictable. Factors such as metabolism, gastrointestinal motility, and dietary consumption can impact the absorption and bioavailability of a substance. In contrast, intraperitoneal injections provide a more reliable and direct method of delivering substances into the bloodstream.*

Secondly, certain substances may undergo degradation or alteration in the acidic environment of the stomach, or they may be broken down by enzymes in the gut before reaching the bloodstream. By bypassing the gastrointestinal tract, intraperitoneal injections ensure that the administered chemical remains intact and reaches the target organs or tissues in its active state.

Additionally, some substances may have poor oral bioavailability, meaning that only a small fraction of the administered dose reaches systemic circulation. Intraperitoneal injections can enhance bioavailability and facilitate more effective distribution of the chemical to the intended areas.

In conclusion, compared to oral administration, intraperitoneal injections often result in a faster rate of drug absorption. This is because drugs injected directly into the peritoneal cavity have immediate access to the abundant blood vascular network present there. As a result, they can quickly enter the circulation and distribute throughout the entire body.

4. Which group had a significant increase or decrease compared to the other group? be rewritten

Response: *Thank you for your comment. The paragraph has now been rewritten.*

5. In the discussion section, you can write about the effective compounds in *Q. brantii* extract or its oil in relation to your results

Response: *We thank the reviewer for this suggestion. The text is adding to the discussion.*

2 Revision 1

3 comments · 11 Jan 2024 – 27 Jan 2024

Mohammad Nasri Reviewer

ACCEPT 11 Jan 2024

Acceptable

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 24 Jan 2024

It's my pleasure to inform you that your manuscript was accepted by the reviewers. On behalf of the editor and editorial office, I appreciate your valuable efforts.

Editor-in-Chief

ACCEPT 27 Jan 2024

Accept