Reviewer’s report

Title: Treatment of head lice with dimeticone 4% lotion: why was it more effective in a randomised controlled trial in rural Turkey than in England?

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Reviewer: Kosta Y. Mumcuoglu

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Treatment

Apparently, the infested individuals were treated by a member of the team and accordingly the medication was not handed to participants in order to do the treatment at home. If yes, this should be indicated more clearly. If in the previous studies, this was not the case, this detail should be also mentioned as one of the possible reasons, why the present study was more successful in killing all lice on the head.

Results

The fact that no adverse effects were observed it is mentioned in the “Outcomes” and also in the “Adverse events”.

Discussion

None of the used policies worldwide did give any results, which would make us believe that there is a chance to “virtually eliminate” the lice (also mentioned in the “Conclusions”). As the authors state, the main plausible reason, why in this study treatment with dimethicone gave better results, was the fact that the authors did take small, segregated communities and succeeded convincing most of the habitants to participate to the study. However, this is practically impossible in bigger cities and surely not in the entire country.

Conclusions

Sentences like….it is possible to free whole communities from louse infestations… should be omitted. We should be happy if we succeed in decreasing significantly the number of infested individuals.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.