Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of the effect of phenytoin on cutaneous healing from excision of melanocytic nevi on the face and on the back.

Version: 1 Date: 12 February 2010

Reviewer: Shivananda Nayak

Reviewer's report:

Appreciate the work done by authors

However authors needs to address the following issues

Abstract

Minor Revisions

Background, 2nd paragraph: reframe the whole sentence because it is not clear

Methods: Usually wound healing experiments done fro a period of 24 days and authors needs to address why 60 days chosen for the study.

Student's-test: it is not required in the abstract

Results: Statisccall word: check for the error

Major Revisions

Main Text

Background: Explain why 60 days selected for the study

Methods: Did the authors created the wound in subjects or they appear to the clinic with wound. Explain this procedure clearly.

Authors did not mention the dose of the phenytoin ointment or the cream in case of controls. This has to be explained and it is very important during the experimental procedures

Page 7: paragraph 4: Authors mentioned 6 out of 100 patients had their wound healed within a 7 days. What about remaining 93 patients? Why only 6 patients had their healing within a short stretch of time.

The references are not uniformly formatted.

Page 14: table 2; why age and sex considered while seeing the wound healing activity? I don’t think this will be the criteria during wound healing experiment. Instead of these authors would have tried for histological and biochemical observation which support the wound healing activity of the phenytoin.

Discretionary Revisions
Table 3: Epithelisation time normally will be 9-10 days. It is better if the authors specify this value instead of qualitative value.
Authors used qualitative methods to prove the healing activity of the test and a control.
Use some quantitative methods to prove the wound healing activity of the phenytoin.

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
'I declare that I have no competing interests'