Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparing the Analgesic Effect of Heat Pack Containing Iron Chip and Ibuprofen for Primary Dysmenorrhea: A randomized controlled trial

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Reviewer: Maria Luisa Gasparri

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank you for asking me to review the interesting manuscript “Comparing the Analgesic Effect of Heat Pack Containing Iron Chip and Ibuprofen for Primary Dysmenorrhea: A randomized controlled trial” written by Shahindokht Navvabi Rigi al.

The paper analyzes the analgesic effect of iron chip containing heat wrap comparing to ibuprofen for the treatment of primary dysmenorrhea. The Author found that heat pack containing Iron chip has comparable analgesic effects to ibuprofen and can possibly be used for primary dysmenorrhea.

The question posed by the authors well defined and the aims of this manuscript respond to the gynecologic need in updating on the management of dysmenorrhea.

The manuscript addresses an issue of clinical importance and it deals with the matter with great argumentation and the literature is clearly explained and properly discussed, even if many studies in the literature are specifically dedicated to this item, and only the present compare with particularly accuracy these old but current therapeutic dispositives.

On the whole, results are comparable to those of the other studies, but there are also some differences well exposed in the paper. For example they highlighted the similar efficacy of two methods who generally were considered non equally efficient.

We found that this apparently insignificant result could open a new scenario for women who can’t be treated by FANS (e.g. allergy, haemorragic diatesis, gastric ulcera.. ). For this reason we suggest to cite this consideration in discussion to enrich the potential impact of the result of this trial.

We suggest to review all previous scientific publications in order to collocate this comparison in a well described scenario. Furthermore we suggest to report worldwide epidemiologic data, not only Iranian ones.

It could be interesting also elucidate in the discussion the recent dispositives used in the management of dysmenorrhea and a profilatic oral ormonal therapy with a detailed analysis of benefits and potential drawbacks.
Globally the manuscript is clearly laid out.

Arguments are supported by data, findings are novel and statistical analyses have been conducted properly. Limitations and eventual bias were properly analyzed.

Finally, we conclude that the manuscript, is appropriate for publications in this Journal.

In my opinion, it could be accepted with major compulsory revisions.

Best regards

Maria Luisa Gasparri

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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'