Author's response to reviews

Title: Microbiological properties of Tualang honey dressing for treatment of partial thickness burn wound: A comparison with Manuka honey and silver based-dressing.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Editor-in-Chief
Melissa Norton, MD

BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine
BioMed Central Ltd,
Floor 6, 236 Gray's Inn Road,
London, WC1X 8HL,
United Kingdom.

Dear Dr.,

Subject: Submission of Revised Manuscript, BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Manuscript ID: 1474614079350292

Title: Antibacterial properties of tualang honey and its effect in burn wound management: a comparative study

Authors: Nur-Azida MN, Kirmpal-Kaur BS, Ananda Aravazhi Doral, Mehru Nisha, Ahmad Sukari Halim

We are submitting the above mentioned revised manuscript to BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine based on the valuable comments from the reviewer. The reviewer’s comments were very useful to strengthen the content of our manuscript. We have responded to all the comments of the reviewer as in page 1.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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### Reviewer 2

**Background**
- the authors should state:

  o What is the problematic (why they are turning to honey?)

  o what others have done to solve this problematic (conventional dressings)
  o what is their contribution
  o why their contribution is important and what are the expectations

  Thank you and it has been done accordingly.

  The increasing rate of multi-resistant infection to parenteral antibiotic and ineffectiveness of the widely used antibacterial topical dressings such as Silver sulfadiazine (SSD) represent a major challenge in burn care. This problem required alternative treatment options.

  Conventional dressings such as gauze, Tulle gras and hydrofibre based do not address the issues of infection effectively. Therefore new generation of silver based dressing such as Aquacel-Ag® and Acticoat® has been developed to reduce local infection and is related morbidity. At the same time other non conventional treatment approach such as the use of honey has become an attractive alternative.

**Methods**
- Authors should explain why dressings were limited to tualang honey only. Why they did not compare its effectiveness in vivo with manuka honey. The argument of cost is not sufficient. Affordability comes after effectiveness, safety and easiness to use.

  Thank you and the correction was done accordingly.

  Manuka honey is not widely used for the management of burn compared to silver based dressings. The silver based dressing is presently used in most clinical settings with good scientific evidence.

**Minor Revision**

**Methods**
- Why 200 ul of tualang honey represents 276.4 mg whereas 200 ul of Manuka honey represents 298.2 mg? Better to say 200 ul of each type of honey without reference to weight.

  Thank you and the correction was done accordingly. Page 7 line15.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result</th>
<th>The figure was removed as suggested.</th>
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<td>The figure is confusing and making no sense. It should stand by itself without reference to the text.</td>
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