Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of the therapeutic value and safety of some South African medicinal plants

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Reviewer: Farrukh Aqil

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Comments on the paper entitled “Evaluation of the therapeutic value and safety of some South African medicinal plants”

The article is of practical importance for natural products with some good data on antibacterial and cytotoxic activity. The major aim of the manuscript was to evaluate the safety of some South African Plants already showing antibacterial activity.

Major Comment
The title is very broad, actually it is difficult to say evaluation of therapeutic value from the data incorporated in the manuscript.

I have specific concern about the cell line used for this study. As author has mentioned that Human Hepatocarcinoma cell lines (Huh-7) was used and different plant extracts showed strong cytotoxicity. In my opinion its better to define it as anticancer activity (rather than safety aspect) as author has used Hepatocarcinoma (Liver Cancer) cell lines not the normal cell line.

Minor comments

Abstract: Abstract is well written
Introduction: There are few grammatical errors and in third paragraph few sentence are not complete.

Methods: There is need to provide the details of strains, cancer cell lines and other material used in the method section.

For antibacterial activity Broth dilution method has been used by the method of Eloff (1998), why author has used the nutrient agar plate...Please Clarify?

Author has mentioned that cells were maintained in DMSO (Is this Correct ?). Actually DMSO is inhibitory for most of the cell lines.

Why author used berberine as positive control? Is there any rationale?

Results and discussion
Author has mentioned that E. autumnalis was significantly stronger than berberine. Is this point correct? if yes then author should show this significance in
There is need to discuss cytotoxicity data in details.

References: Too many references and should be cut short.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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