Author's response to reviews

Title: Protective effect of topical Cordia verbenacea in a rat periodontitis model: immune-inflammatory, antibacterial and morphometric assays.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

I hope this letter finds you well.

With regard to the manuscript entitled “Protective effect of topical Cordia verbenacea in a rat periodontitis model: immune-inflammatory, antibacterial and morphometric assays”, it was revised conforms to the journal style, as recommended. The use of English in the manuscript was carefully checked. Please find our responses to the reviewers’ comments as follow:

**Reviewer 2:**

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors suggested corrections, we just need to correct the following:

**In the keywords:** Cordia verbenaceae is in italics.

The modification was performed.

**Results:** Figure F Lack mention in the description of the results.

This recommendation was considered, as suggested by the reviewer.
Reviewer 3:

Reviewer's report:

I am sorry but the answer the authors gave on IL-1alpha measurement is not appropriate. I myself use the kits from B&D for II-beta. Please check this point.

In fact, as adequately mentioned by this reviewer, the levels of IL1-beta could be determined using another ELISA kit. However, the evaluation of IL1-alpha over IL1-beta does not compromise the findings of the present study. In this respect, previous researches showed that there are two principal forms of IL-1 that have agonist activity, IL-1α and IL-1β, which present similar activities (Graves & Cochran 2003: Graves DT, Cochran D. The contribution of interleukin-1 and tumor necrosis factor to periodontal tissue destruction. J Periodontol. 2003;74:391-40; Tatakis & Kumar, 2005: Tatakis DN, Kumar PS. Etiology and pathogenesis of periodontal diseases. Dent Clin North Am. 2005;49:491-516). The contributions of both IL-1α and IL-1β (two distinct but related molecules) to alveolar bone loss and periodontal disease have received considerable attention in the literature (Lee et al. 1995: Lee HJ, Kang IK, Chung CP, Choi SM. The subgingival microflora and gingival crevicular fluid cytokines in refractory periodontitis. J Clin Periodontol 1995;22:885-890; Koide et al. 1995: Koide M, Suda S, Saitoh S, et al. In vivo administration of IL-1 beta accelerates silk ligature-induced alveolar bone resorption in rats. J Oral Pathol Med 1995;24:420-434; Dayan et al. 2004: Dayan S, Stashenko P, Niederman R, Kupper TS. Oral epithelial overexpression of IL-1alpha causes periodontal disease. J Dent Res 2004;83:786-790).

Considering these aspects, although IL-1β levels has not been evaluated in the current investigation, data related to IL-1 α levels described in this study provides important
information concerning the role of this marker during destruction of the periodontium in the experimental model applied in the present research.
Reviewer 4:

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed the concerns of this reviewer. There are still minor efforts of syntax that can be corrected.

The text was revised, as recommended.

Sincerely,

Fernanda V. Ribeiro (Corresponding Author)