Reviewer’s report

Title: The Antiangiogenic and cytotoxic activities of ethanolic crude extracts of four Salvia species on MCF 7 breast cancer cell line

Version: 1 Date: 31 July 2013

Reviewer: Thomas Mohr

Reviewer’s report:

1.) Major Compulsory Revisions:

The wound healing assay may also measure proliferation which is – according to data given by the paper – impaired at the concentrations of 100 and 150µg/mL. To exclude this effect, a proliferation independent assay such as the Boyden chamber should have been used or it should have been demonstrated that the migration inhibitory effect starts at lower concentrations than inhibition of proliferation.

Inhibition of proliferation and cytotoxicity: The authors should include an IC50 for HUVEC.

2) Minor essential revisions

Figure 4 is likely mislabeled (mg/mL instead of µg/mL)
Indication of statistical significance within the figures.

3) Discretionary Revisions:

The HUVEC cell line available from ATCC (used by the authors) is a hypodiploid cell line with a life expectancy of 50 to 60 population doublings. This is considerably longer than that of normal HUVEC and might have an impact on cell behaviour. The limitations by using this cell model should be mentioned.

General Remarks

Language: The manuscript would benefit from being read by a native speaker (usage of articles, prepositions etc.)

Overall, this paper represents an important work on elucidating the effects of a herbal drug that is extensively used in the middle east. Especially given the growing evidence on the importance of pathologic angiogenesis as driving factor in a broad variety of diseases, this paper merits publication with minor revisions.

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 no conflict of interest