Author's response to reviews

Title: Brazilian green propolis modulates inflammation, angiogenesis and fibrogenesis in intraperitoneal implant in mice

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors

I enclose a MS, on behalf of my co-authors, entitled **Brazilian green propolis modulates inflammation, angiogenesis and fibrogenesis in intraperitoneal implant in mice** by Luiza D. C. Lima, Silvia P. Andrade, Paula P. Campos, Lucíola S. Barcelos, Frederico M. Soriani, Sandra A. L. Moura, Mônica A. N. D. Ferreira for your consideration for publication in BMC Complementary & Alternative Medicine.

The relevance of this study is based on the fact that very little is known about the mechanisms by which propolis improves healing processes in various experimental animal models and human. By studying the effects of nutritional supplementation with water extract of propolis we have shown its modulatory actions up-regulating cytokines (TNF-alpha, VEGF) and down-regulating TGF-beta1 resulting in less collagen deposition in chronic peritoneal inflammation. In addition, propolis has been shown to up-regulate alternative and classical macrophage activation-associated genes in the fibroproliferative process induced by sponge implants in the peritoneal cavity. These observations disclose important mechanisms (activation of inflammatory pathways) by which propolis exerts some of the beneficial effects on attenuating fibrosis.

As we have already published the chemical characterization of our propolis sample, we felt it would be redundant to add the method and chemical composition of this Brazilian green propolis in the current MS (Moura SA, Negri G, Salatino A, Lima LD, Dourado LP, Mendes JB, Andrade SP, Ferreira MA, Cara DC. Aqueous Extract of Brazilian Green Propolis: Primary Components, Evaluation of Inflammation and Wound Healing by Using Subcutaneous Implanted Sponges. eCAM 18: 1-9, 2009).

None of the results in this MS have been published already nor are they under consideration by any other journal.
None of the authors have any conflicts of interest to declare in relation to the work described in this MS.

All authors have contributed to the work and agree to submit the MS for consideration to BMC Complementary & Alternative Medicine.

Housing, anesthesia, care and euthanasia adhered to the guidelines established by our local Institutional Animal welfare Committee (CETEA/UFMG under protocol number 248/08) – see pages 5-6 in the manuscript text.

Yours sincerely,

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