Reviewer’s report

Title: Lavender oil suppresses indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase activity in human PBMC

Version: 2 Date: 11 July 2014

Reviewer: Robert Dantzer

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This is a very straightforward study of the effects of lavender oil and its constituents on the immune-dependent enzymatic pathways that are activated in response to PHA using human peripheral blood mononuclear cells. The results are clear and well presented. The compounds are tested in stimulated and non-stimulated conditions after determination of the range of non-cytotoxic doses. The limitations of this approach are those that are usual for cellular model systems, i.e., mainly the lack of information on the ability of lavender oil to act on immune cells when used as a lotion or an inhaler. They are mentioned in the conclusion section of the paper.

Minor issue: mention in the methods section of the abstract that PHA was used to stimulate PBMC as this information only appears in the results section.