Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of topical honey application along with Intralesional Injection of Glucantime in the treatment of the Cutaneous Leishmaniasis:

Version: 2 Date: 26 March 2006

Reviewer: Peter Molan

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Page 4, line 13: 'Medi-Bee is one (minor) of many brands of active manuka honey, so should not be singled out for mention. Nor is it a brand produced for medical use. Details of the ones that are can be found in: Molan, P. C. ; Betts, J. A. (2004) "Clinical usage of honey as a wound dressing: an update." Journal of Wound Care 13 (8): 353-6.

Page 4, lines 14, 15: Citation (15) should be (15, 16). Citation (16,17)should be (17).

Add to the 'Background' section an explanation of the action of glucantime, and justify its selection for use in this study.

Page 5, line 7: Give details of the way the ulcers were treated with honey - was the honey soaked into a dressing, or covered with a dressing that could absorb it, or covered with a non-absorbent dressing? What quantity was used?

Page 5, penultimate line: "such as" is not acceptable in a report of a scientific study. Say which method/methods was/were actually used to get the reported p values.

Add to the 'methods' section information on blinding of assessors. Say if the assessors of healing were blinded to the treatment given to each case, or say that they were not blinded if that was the situation.

Add to 'Discussion' section: Discuss the way in which the honey was applied to the ulcers, and the importance of holding sufficient on the ulcer and keeping it there all the time so that it can have a continuous therapeutic effect. (See: Molan, P.C.; Betts, J. A. (2000) "Using honey as a wound dressing: some practical considerations." Nursing Times 96 (49) 36-37.) If it was not kept on the ulcers continuously in the present study, discuss the possibility that better results may have been achieved if it had been.

'Conclusions' section: Remove specific mention of the 'Medi-Bee brand, and the statement about it having hydrogen peroxide activity (which cannot be substantiated and is probably incorrect.)
Statistics: I do not have sufficient expertise to judge if the most appropriate statistical methods have been used.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:
I have received travelling expenses from the honey industry to attend wound-care conferences, and some relatively small amounts of research funding from the honey industry for research on honey not directly related to wound care.