Reviewer’s report

Title: Tocopheryl acetate 20% spray for elimination of head louse infestation: a randomised controlled trial comparing with 1% permethrin creme rinse

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Reviewer: Simona Magi

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The Manuscript “Tocopheryl acetate 20% spray for elimination of head louse infestation: a randomised controlled trial comparing with 1% permethrin creme rinse” by Ian F Burgess, Nazma A Burgess, Elizabeth R Brunton is a comparative study that evaluates the efficacy of tocopheril acetate versus the widely used permethrin. Participants have been randomized in two groups and treated on two occasions 7 days apart. This is a blind assessor study. Authors conclude that tocopheryl acetate is more effective than permethrin.

The study is properly conducted and the paper is well written. Here is some discretionary revisions.

Do the author follow the “International guidelines for clinical trials with pediculicides (Barker SC et al., International Journal of Dermatology, 2012, 51, 853–858”)? I believe they do, thus they should cite this paper and report it among references.

Authors ascribed the reduced efficacy of tocopheryl acetate (from 73.9% to 56.5%) to the fact that some participants treated with tocopheryl acetate have been re-infested by infested family members treated with permethrin. This is a weak point of the study, authors should further discuss this issue.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'