Reviewer's report

Title: The effectiveness of high dose zinc acetate lozenges on various common cold symptoms: a meta-analysis

Version: 3 Date: 25 November 2014

Reviewer: Ralf Jendyk

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential Revisions:
1. Two of the three included trials recommended and tested the administration of zinc acetate within 24 hours of symptom onset [21,22]. That aspect should be addressed in your article as well.

2. The third trial [20] linked the effect of zinc lozenges to co-existing allergies of the participants. It was found, if I remember correctly as the article is unfortunately not available to date due to technical problems of the ScienceDirect- server, a stronger effect of zinc lozenges on participants suffering from allergies. That should be mentioned somewhere in your article, too.

3. It should be mentioned that two of the three regarded trials [21,22] did not balance for gender aspects.

Discretionary Revision:
4. As mentioned in some of the reference articles (e. g. [12]), side effects of the zinc- therapy have been observed. That fact should be mentioned in your "Conclusion"- section as well.

5. It would be very nice to give some total numbers of symptom-duration-shortages as examples.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.