Reviewer’s report

Title: Curcumin and Inflammation in Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: a Randomized, Placebo Controlled Clinical Trial

Version: 0 Date: 06 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Fernando Bril

Reviewer's report:

In this proof-of-concept study, Saadati et al assessed the role of curcumin to reduce subclinical inflammation in patients with NAFLD. The authors should be congratulated for a well-designed study. However, the presentation and interpretation of their results must be revised before this manuscript is ready for publication.

- Briefly, this is a negative study, where all comparisons between curcumin vs. placebo were negative. Therefore, the study should be presented as such. Within group comparisons (i.e., before vs. after) have only minimal importance in this scenario, and conclusions should not be driven by these.

- Please re-write the manuscript (results and discussion) based on the main comparison of curcumin vs. placebo. Avoid statements claiming a significant action of curcumin based on within group comparisons.

- Sample size calculation: please provide more details. What do the authors mean by 2 units? 2 pg/ml? What was the expected SD? Is this clinically relevant? Please justify.

- In addition to IRB approval, was this clinical trial included in any RCT registry (e.g., www.clinicaltrials.gov, etc.)? Please mention this under Methods.

- Table 1: % of smokers should be reported per column, not % per row.

- "3 capsules containing either 500mg curcumin or matched placebo per day after each meal for 12 weeks" is unclear. Please clarify dose. 500mg TID or 1500mg QD or 1500mg TID?

- There are several grammatical mistakes throughout the manuscript. I would suggest having it revised by a native English speaker.

- No information is provided regarding physical activity and caloric intake between the groups during the 12 weeks of the trial.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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