Reviewer's report

**Title:** Therapeutic and immunomodulatory activities of short-course treatment of murine visceral leishmaniasis with KALSOMETM10, a new liposomal amphotericin B

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 14 October 2014

**Reviewer:** Sukbir Kaur

**Reviewer's report:**

Comments

The manuscript by Asad et al., presents protective efficacy of a new formulation of liposomal amphotericin B (KALSOMETM10) in murine model for the treatment of kala-azar.

The experimental design, the presentation of the data and the conclusions are scientifically correct.

My major criticism of this paper is that the authors have studied only the cytokine levels for showing the immunomodulatory efficacy of KALSOME 10. Moreover, the efficacy of this new liposomal formulation of amphotericin B has already been reported by Misra et al., 2013 with the same doses. In their study they have used this formulation three times and in the present study the KALSOME10 has been used as a double dose (7.5mg/kg body wt. and 3.5 mg/kg body wt.). In the present study the disease promoting and inhibiting cytokines have been evaluated and no other new data has been generated. If the authors suggest that KALSOME has an immunomodulatory activity then they should have studied other parameters such as immunophenotyping of spleen cells by flow cytometry, to determine the percentage of CD4, CD8 and T reg cells, Delayed type hypersensitivity responses and lymphoproliferative assays.

Another major drawback of the study is that they have not used any positive control such as Ambisome or fungizone for comparison.

The authors have also not given detailed protocol followed for treatment and the number of days for which the drug was given.

The authors should have discussed about the cost effectiveness of KALSOME 10 in comparison with ambisome.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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