Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of Brazilian Green Propolis on Proteinuria and Renal Function in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial

Version: 0 Date: 18 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

Statistics - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: This is well conducted albeit small RCT looking at the role of Brazilian propolis in reduction of glomerular proteinuria from any cause in patients with CKD. The authors should go into details of how exactly the number 18 in sample size was arrived at to detect a statistical difference of 5%. This is small number of patients in each group and further clarification may be necessary. This is the major drawback of this otherwise well conducted RCT and larger studies involving multiple centres may be necessary for further validation.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

In the introduction add in detail what Brazilian propolis is and what the known physiological effects in animal studies have revealed. There is no mention at all of any reported side effects that any of the two groups had. The authors have also not specified how dosage of 500mg/day was arrived at and on they need to specify that.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

Please confirm that you have included your review in the 'Comments to Author’ box?

As a minimum standard, please include a few sentences that outline what you think are the authors' hypothesis/objectives, their main results, and the conclusions drawn. Your report should constructively instruct authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable for publication, or provide detailed reasons as to why the manuscript does not fulfill our criteria for consideration. Please supply appropriate evidence using examples from the manuscript to substantiate your comments. Please break your comments into two bulleted or numbered sections: major and minor comments.

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Yes
Are the methods appropriate and well described to allow independent reproduction of experiments?
Please state in the 'Comments to Authors' box below what you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the methods (study design, data collection, and data analysis), and what is required, if anything, to improve the quality of reporting.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Yes

Are you able to assess the statistics?
- Are the statistical test(s) used in this study appropriate and well described?
- Is the exact sample size (n) reported for each experimental group/condition (as a number, not a range)?
- Are the description of any error bars and probability values appropriate?
- Are all error bars defined in the corresponding figure legends?
- Has a sample size calculation been included, or a description and rationale about how sample sizes were chosen?

Please can you confirm which of the following statements apply to your statistical assessment of the manuscript (Please include details of what the authors need to address in the 'Comments to Author' box):

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Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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