Author’s response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of therapeutic potential of VB-001, a leave-on formulation, for the treatment of moderate adherent dandruff.

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Version: 3 Date: 12 Apr 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Editor query #1. Could you please kindly explain to the fact that none of the principal investigators listed in trial registration is listed as author in this manuscript, for instance, Rajiv Joshi, Hema Jerajani, Suneel Vartak, Nikhil Kajale, and Yatin Jadhav.

Author response: It is important to note that this was not an investigator initiated trial. All of the aforementioned investigators were working with Contract Research Organization (CRO) selected by the sponsor to conduct the said study. Sponsor ensured that they were all very qualified investigators. Sponsor provided the CRO with the information they needed to conduct the investigation properly and CRO was intensely engaged with the investigators to confirm that the trial had been conducted as per the general investigational plan. However, the clinical trial design and general investigation plan were laid out by the sponsor. Investigators collected all the raw data scores that were further analyzed by qualified statistician at CRO and provided to the sponsor. All subsequent interpretations of formulation efficacy and comparative analysis of the data aligned to the compositional differences of the two formulations were drawn by the sponsor based on the unbiased results provided by the CRO.
Editor query #2. Please kindly include all authors' emails on title page.

Author response: Provided on page 1, lines 19 through 23 in revised manuscript.

Editor query #3. Is the Independent Ethics Committee specifically established for this study? If yes, you also need to clarify all the committee members in the ethics statement (name and job title). If not, you need to make it clear the name of the committee. We would also appreciate that you could provide us a copy of ethics approval document.

Author response: The independent ethics committee was not established specifically for this study. The CRO had submitted multiple study proposals (undertaken during that time period) from various sponsors to this committee. Each proposal was evaluated on its merits and approvals were granted after careful evaluation of the protocols. The document with the details of this committee and the approval for this study are provided in a separate file.

Editor query #4. Please include a statement that "All authors read and approved the final manuscript." in Authors' Contributions section.

Author response: Provided on page 19, line # 412 of revised manuscript.

Editor query #5. Please kindly provide us the final clean version without track changes.

Author response: Provided