Reviewer's report

Title: High efficacy of a dimeticone-based pediculicide following a brief application: in vitro assays and randomized controlled investigator-blinded clinical trial

Version: 2 Date: 11 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Ian Burgess

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for your attention to the comments of reviewers. The manuscript now reads much better as a consistent whole and in general has answered nearly all of the questions raised during the previous review process.

There remain a few inconsistencies and points that would make understanding of the value of this study and the methodology clearer for readers.

1. Since you have stated that nit combing was an integral part of the therapy for both clinical interventions, irrespective of whether parent/guardians carried out any additional combing, it should be made clear to readers that this was a part of your clinical study and was a necessary component of treatment. Without doubt combing contributed to the efficacy of both products, although we cannot determine to what degree this did contribute in the absence of a non-combing arm to the study. Therefore, you need to add in some text to this effect as follows:

   a. Title. The title should be changed to read "High efficacy of a dimeticone-based pediculicide with adjunctive nit combing following a brief application: in vitro assays and randomized controlled investigator-blinded clinical trial". Otherwise readers could be misled into thinking that the products achieved this level of efficacy in the absence of combing.

   b. Reference to the combing element as part of the therapeutic procedures needs to be added to parts of the text as an important point for clarification of the efficacy, and to avoid misunderstanding, because it could also explain the unexpectedly high efficacy of the comparison product as well as making a contribution towards efficacy of the test product. This should be done at lines 575, 618, 643-644, 691-693, 707.

2. You have made it clear that in the spray test the permethrin comparator could not be sprayed because of viscosity (lines 180-181). However, in lines 422-423 there remains a potential misunderstanding because it is implied that the permethrin product was sprayed.

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.

Yes

**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:

Acceptable

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