Reviewer’s report

**Title:** TREATMENT OF RECURRENT APHTHOUS STOMATITIS (RAS; APHTHAE; CANKER SORES) WITH A BARRIER FORMING MOUTH RINSE OR TOPICAL GEL FORMULATION CONTAINING HYALURONIC ACID: A RETROSPECTIVE CLINICAL STUDY

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**Reviewer:** Fabien Bornert

**Reviewer’s report:**

Reviewing for BMC Oral Health of article intitled :

« TREATMENT OF RECURRENT APHTHOUS STOMATITIS (RAS; APHTHAE; CANKER SORES) WITH A BARRIER FORMING MOUTH RINSE OR TOPICAL GEL FORMULATION CONTAINING HYALURONIC ACID: A RETROSPECTIVE CLINICAL STUDY »

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**Aim:**

This paper deals with a clinical retrospective study concerning a case serie of 45 patients splitted in two groups and comparing efficency of two differents topical agent (gel and mouthrinse) containing hyaluronic acid for recurrent aphtous stomatitis.

Few clinical studies have compared in this original way these two types of treatment.

**Introduction**

Line 70: « Although the histopathological progressing the disease follows a common pattern, .. » => this sentence is not clear, please change it.

Lines 82-83: « Major RAS that account for about 10% of all RAS are larger (diameter can exceed 10 mm) » => in principle, major RAS exceed 10 mm otherwise it is not a major canker sore.

Lines 105-106: « a temporal physical barrier over the ulcerous lesion protecting it from the oral cavity [15] »: lesions have to be much more protected from « oral traumas » not from « oral cavity » it doesn't make sense.
Section material and methods

Line 116-117: « (GUM ® AftaClear ® gel) & (GUM ® AftaClear ® rinse) » should completed in principle by the town and country where it is manufactured..

Lines 148-149: « evaluation in terms of ulcer dimension and redness of the lesions at different times » => We don't know how the redness was evaluated ? Did you use a clinical scale ?

Concerning data collection, text could be presented more clearly :

point #2: Major canker sore was excluded ? this point should be mentioned

point #3: in principle, RAS occurs with severals lesions in the mouth mucosa => which lesion did you choose for measurement ? the biggest one ? this point should be mentioned and should related to the point #6

point #7: this point should be presented more clearly, use for example « 4,5 or 6.. different stages were used to characterize the clinical aspect of ulcer …»

points #8 and #12 : what is the difference between these two points ?

Section results

lines 198-199: « 20 were treated with the rinse while 25 were treated with the gel. 21 of the patients were females (Rinse = 10; in the Gel = 11) and 24 were males (9 in the Rinse and 15 in the gel group) » => I'm not a mathematics specialist but the total of patients is 45 and 20 in rinse group and 25 in gel group. But you describe 10 females & 9 males in rinse group so the total is 19 patients and not 20. For Gel group you describe 11 females and 15 males so it represents 26 and not 25.

Sorry but there is a big problem in the data and analysis consequently !!

Section discussion

To complete after clarification of the « results ».

References

Authors should remove month from references

Temporary conclusion comments :
Before continuing reviewing, a concrete response is required regarding the population studied and the distribution of the groups.

**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.

Unable to assess

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