Author’s response to reviews

Title: Toxicology and Teratology of the Active Ingredients of Professional Therapy Muscle Care Products

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
We would like to thank reviewers for their comments and helpful thoughts. In general, we have found the comments most useful and have addressed them as follows:

REVIEWER 1:

1) Add a table to summarize the available human and animal data for ease of reference and further potential investigations. In the table, please separate human data and animal data, including the US, EU and Australia teratological category classification, and separating general toxicology, development and reproductive effects.

As suggested, a table (table 4) has been added. Taking into consideration that most ingredients are classified as category N (not classified), we believe it will not be suitable to add a column for this purpose. Instead, for each ingredient with a clear classification, we mention the pregnancy category as it appears in the text.

2) For human, please provide the medical indications, recommended dose, systemic and local effects, etc. For animal studies, please provide the species, exposure, test doses, NOEFL, LD50 dose, systemic and local effects, etc. If there is no data available, it is important to state also.

The text has been revised to address the reviewer’s comments. The PTMC ingredients are indicated for many medical uses in other formulations, which cannot be summarized in the current study since they are not directly related to the focus of this review. With respect to animal studies, we have retrieved and included all available information in the literature. In both humans and animals, if there are no data, we added a sentence to address this and to highlight the need for further research.

3) Since it is indicated that compounds in similar creams are present at different ratios, please provide the ranges in Table 2. In addition, it is better to divide the ingredients in terms of anti-inflammatory, analgesics, circulation enhancers and tissue repairs.

We would like to thank the reviewer for this comment. However, it seems impossible to cover the range or ratio of ingredients from all similar creams since there are numerous such products. We have addressed this in stating: “However, it is important to bear in mind that compounds in similar creams are presented at different ratios that might influence the properties of the creams. Thus, when examining each ingredient, these ingredients were invariably studied at different concentrations in animal studies and hence, one need to carefully extrapolate data from other creams to PTMC”.

Also, table 2 has been revised and simplified; however, the numbers of items under each category suggested by the reviewer (i.e. anti-inflammatory, analgesics, circulation enhancers and tissue repairs) is limited. Instead this classification has been made in text with the table.

4) A paragraph of physiological and pharmacological characteristics of pregnancy subject to topic administration will be helpful. Please also address some muscle care products are used for some medical conditions, which may be more sensitive to the adverse effects than some one had no medical problem.

This paragraph has been added as suggested.
REVIEWER 2:

1) Table 2 is difficult. Rather, how about another Table that describes your result related to the aim of this paper. Second, if the authors focus on the next points, I think this paper will be great.

Another table (table 4) has been added as suggested. This table summarizes the available human and animal data with references. We separated human from animal data. Also, we summarized general toxicology, development and reproductive effects for each PTMC ingredients.

3) Incorrect grammar, word repetition, unnatural text...

A complete revision for the English language has been performed as suggested.

4) Texts went under subheadings. Under these subheadings, I think contents are not BEAUTIFULLY organized.

We re-organized the content as suggested.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

1) Overall organization of the manuscript, updating and revision of the tables.

We re-organized the contents of the manuscript as suggested by all reviewers.

2) The inclusion of a table summarizing the data reviewed in the manuscript and updating of table 2 will provide readers with greater clarity regarding the manuscript content.

A summarizing table (table 4) has been added as suggested by all reviewers.

Table 2 has been revised and simplified by splitting it into two tables (table 2 and 3).

3) The reviewers provide comments regarding both the organization of the manuscript and the, at times, awkward English expression. This can detract from the content of your manuscript and review and revision of this area will improve the flow and cohesion of your work.

We re-organized the contents as suggested. The English has been carefully reviewed.