Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of Tualang honey on the healing of anastomotic wound in large bowel anastomosis in rats-A randomized controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 14 August 2015

Reviewer: Scott Sell

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. There are a number of glaring grammatical errors throughout the manuscript. Please revise carefully.
2. In their Background section, the authors mention the use of various healing agents (i.e. honey, aloe vera, etc.) but they provide no references to substantiate that. Please include references for each.
3. Why was this study only conducted for 7 days? Does literature substantiate this duration? This reviewer would have liked to have seen animals sacrificed at multiple time points to obtain data about the healing process.
4. How was the amount of Tualang honey provided determined? Why was the study not conducted using a range of honey doses to determine an optimal range for healing?
5. Why was collagen matrix production not assessed in the histopathological examination?
6. Why was an intact, non-operated control not used for the mechanical evaluation or the histopathological evaluation?
7. What stains were used for the histopathological evaluation? Why was some immunohistochemistry not performed to assess the presence of neutrophils, macrophages (M0, M1, and M2), or endothelial cells?

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Do the authors have a reference for the surgical protocol/animal model that was used?
2. Do the authors have a reference for the bowel burst strength testing performed?
3. Typically burst strength is performed with some degree of step and hold pressure application. This was not mentioned in the methods section, and it seems that pressure was simply applied and constantly increased. What was the rate of pressure increase?
4. This reviewer is not sure why the authors present data as mean +/- SEM. Why not present it as mean +/- standard deviation?

Discretionary Revisions:
1. N/A

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests