Reviewer’s report

Title: Cellular pharmacodynamic effects of Pycnogenol® in patients with severe osteoarthritis: a randomized controlled pilot study

Version: 1 Date: 03 May 2017

Reviewer: Sonja Maria Walzer

Reviewer’s report:

I would like to thank the authors for the detailed answers and explanations to my comments.

Question: (the authors wrote ....)

......We do not think that patients with severe OA would have vast benefits from taking Pycnogenol in the 3 weeks between inclusion and the knee replacement surgery, which was already scheduled. However, as discussed above, we have good reason from results of the clinical studies (cited in references 6-8 in the reference list) that the patients could have less pain and less joint stiffness.

To your opinion and your current findings reported in this manuscript- how would you recommend a Pycnogenol intake to have the optimal long term effects on OA? At which stage should OA patients start?

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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