Reviewer’s report

Title: Zingiberaceae extracts for pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 1  Date: 11 April 2015

Reviewer: SubbaRao Madhunapantula

Reviewer’s report:

The study “Zingiberaceae extracts for pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis” by Lakhar, SE et al screened the online databases and selected 18 studies to include in the systematic review and 8 studies in the meta-analysis to check whether Zingiberaceae plant extracts could reduce pain. Analysis of these studies clearly demonstrated that Zingiberaceae extracts, in fact, reduce the pain, however, with a bleeding risk. The study is important as it suggests whether the traditional medicinal practices using Zingiberaceae extracts are having similar pain-killing effects (with less risk factors) as commonly prescribed treatments such as the use of NSAIDS for reducing pain (whose long-term use is known to have side-effects).

Comments:

1. Small number of RCTs included in the meta-analysis
2. Include a table to show the component(s) identified in each extract studied along with the structure of the molecule(s)
   In the introduction, it would be better if a cartoon describing the mechanism of action of all Zingeberaceae extracts is included

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests