Reviewer’s report

Title: Does the placebo effect modulate drug bioavailability? Randomized cross-over studies of three drugs

Version: 0 Date: 16 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Ting Yu

Reviewer's report:

In this manuscript the authors conducted an interesting clinical trial evaluating the drug*placebo interaction effect on drug bio-availability. For this purpose, the pharmacokinetics of oral cephalixin, ibuprofen and paracetamol was evaluated in three randomized cross-over studies. The authors found no evidence for the hypothesis that awareness of drug ingestion modulates its bioavailability. Their results also suggested that blinding subjects may not be a critical component in bio-equivalence studies and raised the awareness that considerable intra-subject bio-variability exists even comparing a drug product to itself. The studies were well conducted. Limitations of the study and interpretation of the negative findings were well discussed.

Minor issues:

1. In line 236, sentence "...paracetamol was not were..." needs clarification.
2. Most of the citations numbers in this manuscript were inserted after comma or period. They need to be corrected.

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An article of importance in its field

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