Reviewer’s report

Title: HATRIC: A feasibility study of Pelargonium sidoides root extract EPs®7630 (Kaloba®) for the treatment of acute cough due to lower respiratory tract infection in adults: study protocol for a double blind, placebo-controlled randomised trial

Version: 1 Date: 09 May 2019

Reviewer: Lawrence Mbuagbaw

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for addressing the previous set of comments. I still have one pending concern.

With regards to progression criteria, it is important to state what will inform the decision to proceed to a larger trial. Stating the same issue will be considered is insufficient.

Please note that describing progression criteria does not affect your funding arrangement or ethics approval as it doesn't touch on the design, analyses or reporting of your pilot study. It affects the interpretation and the concern here is that if these are not stated upfront, unsuccessful pilots may be moved to larger studies or successful pilots may be abandoned.

The progression criteria are not held in stone and for the most part adaptations can be made to the larger trial to make things work.

It would be helpful to comment on this as this is now an academic paper and it is reasonable to position it in the context of current knowledge. If these have not been discussed with the team, it is also fine to say they are in the works.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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