

Dear Reviewers:

Thank you for your comments concerning our manuscript. These comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our manuscript, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope to meet with approval. The revisions in manuscript were marked in blue. The responds to both reviewers' comments are as following.

***Reviewer #1:***

This manuscript reviews the results of studies on the effect of garlic-derived compound, allicin, as an add-on treatment in Hp eradication triple (PTT) and quadruple (BCQT) therapies. Based on the data obtained from 8 RCTs involving 435 patients in the allicin group and 432 from the control group, it was concluded that Hp eradication and the rate of gastric ulcer healing were significantly higher in the allicin group than that of the control group. While, the authors suggest these positive results should be treated with caution, it should be noted that the previous numerous studies, conducted in the leading laboratories on the effect of garlic or its oil extracts on Hp eradication and ulcer healing, produced mostly discouraging results. Hence, it is quite possible that allicin-enriched preparation at the reported doses could improve Hp eradication and ulcer healing rate. Although, the paper is well presented, the sections Introduction and the Discussion are missing more relevant references discussing alternative treatments for Hp infection (see W.J. Gastroenterol. 20 (2014)1450 -1469 and Inflammopharmacology 27(2019) 203-211). There is also a major, probably typographical, error on p. 2, first line under Introduction stating that H. pylori is a "Gram-positive" bacterium. Obviously, this requires correction by the authors. There are also numerous typos in the text (see "trerapy").

***Response to reviewer:***

The relevant references discussing alternative treatments for Hp infection were supplemented in Introduction and Discussion. What's more, we hold that the general characters of the agents as alternative medicine to treat Hp infection might be worthwhile for us to discuss further. We speculated that the research and development process of allicin, i.e. identification of active ingredients followed by therapeutic dosage exploration, might be a typical case of clinical application of alternative medicine. In addition, the mistake of "Gram-positive" and some other spelling mistakes were corrected. We are sorry for our previous negligence.

***Reviewer #2:***

This is a well written meta-analysis paper concerning the assessment of possible efficacy of allicin (extracted from garlic) in improvement of eradication rates in H. pylori treatment, healing of peptic ulcer and the remission of abdominal pain in randomized controlled trials. This study is based on analysis of 8 randomized controlled trials (RCTs) published from inception until June 2019. The authors give the extensive characteristics of selected studies and presented detailed description of inclusion and exclusion criteria applied to select literature and used the appropriate statistical methods. The present meta-analysis showed that allicin can improve eradication rates, healing of peptic ulcer rates, the remission of peptic ulcers and the remission of abdominal pain. However, the outcomes of eradication rates were very low, for healing rates and total remission rates of peptic ulcer was low. The authors have reviewed and analyzed sufficient amount of literature. The review is supplied with 7 Tables and 8 figures.

***Response to reviewer:***

Thank you for your kind remarks.

Best wishes

Sincerely yours:

Xiao-Bei Si

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019