

63324 - Answering Reviewers

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: I have no additional suggestions

Answer - Thanks for your positive comments.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: Dear editor: Thank you for asking. I have reviewed Manuscript "The Role of Acidic Environment in the Treatment of Diabetic Foot Infections: A Review". The results suggest that conventional therapies with antibiotics and local wound care with routinely used topical antiseptic agents have their own limitations. Citric acid followed by hyaluronic acid, hypochlorous acid in a decreasing order of efficacy and to a lesser extent acetic acid can be used as better alternatives to control infection and promote healing of diabetic foot ulcers. The concept is interesting, but in the current format there are a little concerns that need to be addressed.

Answer - Thanks for your kind review and suggestions. Following are my answers to the points raised by you.

1. The latest reference is from 2016. Could you add some new references?

Answer: Latest reference from the year 2019 is added (Saeedi P, Petersohn I, Salpea P, Malanda B, Karuranga S, Unwin N, Colagiuri S, Guariguata L, Motala A, Ogurtsova K, Shaw J, Bright D, Williams R. Global and regional diabetes prevalence estimates for 2019 and projections for 2030 and 2045: Results from the International Diabetes Federation Diabetes Atlas, 9th edition. *Diabet Res Clin Pract* 2019;157: 107843 [PMID: 31518657 DOI:10.1016/j.diabres.2019.107843])

2. There are different fonts in the Flow Chart 1

Answer: Fonts in the flowchart are corrected.

3. The pictures use "Fig" is not accurate;

Answer: Fig. is corrected to "Figure"

4. All pictures can be put on one picture by PS, and marked on the changed place.

Answer: the figures are arranged using power-point as per the suggestion of Science Editor.

EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Authors must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are listed below:

(1) Science editor: 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes Review of the role of acidic environment in the treatment of diabetic foot infections. The topic is within the scope of the WJD. (1) Classification: Grade C, and Grade C; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The results suggest that conventional therapies with antibiotics and local wound care with routinely used topical antiseptic agents have their own limitations. Citric acid followed by hyaluronic acid, hypochlorous acid in a decreasing order of efficacy and to a lesser extent acetic acid can be used as better alternatives to control infection and promote healing of diabetic foot ulcers. And the concept is interesting.

Answer - Thanks for your kind words.

The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered;

Answer - all the questions raised by the reviewers have been answered and the necessary corrections have been inserted in Bold Blue format.

(3) Format: There are 1 table and 6 figures; (4) References: A total of 86 references are cited, including 5 references published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There are 5 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations (i.e. those that are most closely related to the topic of the manuscript) and remove all other improper self-citations. If the authors fail to address the critical issue of self-citation, the editing process of this manuscript will be terminated;

Answer: Dear sir, we have re-evaluated the manuscript. In context with diabetic foot ulcers, we have cited only "5" of our previous works in the list of total of 87 references. However, we have cited our other works on citric acid and acetic acid which is in relation to role of these acids in the management of wounds other than diabetic foot ulcers. Please guide us.

and (6) References recommendations: The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by the peer reviewer(s), especially references published by the peer reviewer(s) him/herself (themselves). If the authors find the peer reviewer(s) request for the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself (themselves), please send the peer reviewer's ID number to

editorialoffice@wjgnet.com. The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade A and Grade B. The author declared that the manuscript has been revised by a native English speaker. 3 Academic norms and rules: No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. No financial support was obtained for the study. The topic has not previously been published in the WJD.

5 Issues raised: (1) Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor;

Answer: the figures are provided in power-point as suggested

(2) PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout;

Answer: an attempt has been made to provide the PMID/ DOI numbers wherever available. All Authors are cited.

6 Re-Review: Not required. 7 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

Thank you very much.

(2) *Company editor-in-chief:* I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, the full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Diabetes, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors. Before final acceptance, uniform presentation should be used for figures showing the same or similar contents; for example, "Figure 1Pathological changes of atrophic gastritis after treatment. A: ...; B: ...; C: ...; D: ...; E: ...; F: ...; G: ...".

Answer: Thanks for your kind words. The figures are rearranged as per your suggestions.