

Review of: "The pros and cons of utilizing crude herbal preparations as opposed to purified active ingredients, with emphasis on the COVID pandemic"

Germán Zuluaga

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article presents two clearly identified sections, which should be conveniently subtitled:

- 1) An explanatory statement on the limitations of RCTs for the evaluation of the therapeutic efficacy of herbal products and, therefore, the rationale for their prudent use, based on the experience of traditional medicines.
- 2) A small series of cases in which the use of Artemisia, with traditional preparations, could contribute to the proper management of COVID.

I consider that the article is well written, coherent with its theoretical approach and can be useful to advance in a scientific reflection that allows understanding and accepting that research on traditional medicines requires innovative scientific methodologies, as already suggested in the WHO document on Guidelines for research on traditional medicines (2000).

As a scholar of traditional medicines in Latin America, I believe that a term needs to be clarified. The article speaks of "crude preparations" to refer to the traditional forms of preparation of medicinal plants. However, the term "crude" in Spanish refers to having been prepared without cooking. The traditional preparations of plants can be raw, in infusion, in decoction and in alcoholic tinctures, among others.