

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

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

Authors: Michal Haran and Alain Berrebi

General comments:

- The title is worded such that a reader, particularly in the field of traditional medicine, would wish to read the full text. Unfortunately, the details provided in the text does not completely justify the title. The authors should consider adding a subtitle – such as ‘example from case studies’, which probably would inform the readers that the article is not meant to be a review.
- The authors should also divide the article under standard headings for better comprehension. Examples from literature should be discussed to support the view-points mentioned in the paper. In particular, the use of crude extracts should be discussed in the light of the beneficial aspects.
- The challenges of standardization of crude extracts should be highlighted.
- The limitations of the available approaches for establishing a road map for successful acceptance of herbal medicines also need a mention.
- Many other plant based studies have been reported for COVID. A few of the names and study outcome should be briefly mentioned.

Specific comments:

The details of *Artemisia* used in the study is lacking. Though the authors have stated that the data generated from their hospital would be published separately, a few details would help. These include

- Which species of *Artemisia* was used and was it authenticated?
- The type of extract used.
- When was the study undertaken – which wave of the COVID-19 pandemic? Was any of the patient discussed vaccinated?
- Were the patients taking only *Artemisia* or other medications including other herbal remedies – the details should be

mentioned and discussed especially in the light of herb-drug interactions. Any case study with younger patients should also be included.