



MEDICAL THERAPIES AND PHARMACOLOGY

ASSESSING QUALITY OF REPORTING OF HERBAL DERMATOLOGY TRIALS FROM THE PHILIPPINES USING THE HCONSORT CHECKLIST: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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Background: Herbal medicine is a growing and innovative field in Philippine dermatology. There is a need to assess the quality of reporting of published herbal randomized controlled trials in dermatology since these will serve to guide rational development and use of herbal medicine in the Philippines.

Objective: To assess the quality of reporting of published herbal RCTs in dermatology from the Philippines using the hCONSORT checklist

Methods: We searched MEDLINE, CENTRAL, HERDIN (from inception to 20 September 2018), and other secondary sources for published randomized controlled trials that used any herbal preparation as intervention for the treatment or prevention of a dermatologic disease or for maintenance of healthy skin, hair or nails. We determined reporting compliance with the checklist of the hCONSORT Statement Extension for Herbal Interventions.

Results: We included 41 trials, majority of which were on infections, infestations and bites (66%). The three most common families of herbs used were Fabaceae (22%) (kakawati, akapulko), Arecaceae (12%) (coconut), and Myrtaceae (12%) (eucalyptus, guava, tea tree).

Most of the trials (27/41, 66%) were conducted in accredited dermatology training programs of the Philippine Dermatological Society. Only 11 trials (27%) were published in PubMed-indexed journals. More than half of articles were published after the CONSORT publication in 2006 (59%). The mean reporting compliance of included studies was 39.6% (SD 9.9), with only seven studies reporting more than 50% of the hCONSORT checklist items.

Conclusion: Published herbal RCTs in dermatology from the Philippines poorly adhere to the hCONSORT. There is a need for dissemination of the hCONSORT to local researchers and journal editors to ensure thorough and quality reporting.





Key words: randomized clinical trials, herbal, botanical, plant-based, CONSORT, quality of reporting, systematic review

