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**Title:** Autologous blood in the management of ocular surface disorders

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Dear Editor of *World Journal of Experimental Medicine*

On behalf of the other authors and myself, I would like to extend my gratitude for the efforts and time spent reviewing our submission. The Editor makes excellent points and offers valuable suggestions to improve the manuscript. **Please find the responses in bold font under the comments made by the reviewer below, which can also be found highlighted in yellow in the revised manuscript.**

*Overall, this manuscript provides valuable and valid information. I do not see any major issues in this manuscript; however, a few minor issues need to be addressed, as pointed out below.*

*1- The manuscript is generally well-written, but there are minor grammatical errors that need to be addressed. Additionally, some sentences could be simplified for clarity.*

**A native English doctor has modified and edited the paper. These changes are made throughout the manuscript, but they are not highlighted.**

*2- The abstract is well-written and provides a clear overview of the topic. However, a few areas could be improved for clarity and impact. For instance, the abstract could benefit from a more explicit statement of the review's objective or research question. Additionally, while the challenges are mentioned, it might be useful to briefly touch on the specific gaps in the literature that this*

*review aims to address. This would strengthen the abstract by highlighting the review's contribution to advancing the field.*

**In accordance with the suggestion made by the Reviewer, the specific gaps and aims of the review have been enhanced in the first part of the abstract to read:**

**“This review examines the mechanisms underlying ocular surface disorders while discussing existing autologous blood-based therapies for managing these disorders. Current clinical trials are also summarized, and a comparison between autologous blood therapy and conventional eyedrops is attempted. Finally, safe techniques and protocols for autologous blood medicine are elucidated, and adverse effects and future perspectives of this novel therapy are reviewed.”**

*3- The introduction provides a good overview of ocular surface disorders and the rationale for using autologous blood. However, the objectives could be more clearly defined.*

**The objectives of the review have been stated in the introduction section as follows:**

**“This review investigates the mechanisms that cause ocular surface abnormalities and explores the current autologous blood-based therapies used to treat these problems. The present study provides a concise overview of ongoing clinical trials, aiming to compare the effectiveness of autologous blood therapy with traditional eyedrops. The text provides a comprehensive explanation of the safe processes and protocols used in autologous blood medicine. It also examines the potential adverse effects and future prospects of this innovative therapy.”**

*4- The discussion flows logically, but the connections between sections could be more coherent. Consider revising the section headings for better alignment with the content.*

**To enhance the flow of the discussion section, the subheadings have been simplified and modified to read:**

**“Mechanisms of Action, Clinical and Research Applications, Future Research and Novel Directions, and Limitations and Challenges.”**

*5- The conclusion could emphasize the practical impact of the findings and suggest how they could change current clinical practices.*

In accordance with the suggestion made by the Reviewer, the following has been added in the conclusion section:

**“The results of this review underscore the potential of autologous blood therapy to enhance patient outcomes in ocular surface disorders. Implementing this therapy in clinical practice could enhance healing, reduce inflammation, and improve the overall management of these disorders.”**

*6- The manuscript touches on the implications of the findings but should discuss potential future research directions in more depth, particularly the long-term effects and safety of using autologous blood.*

As suggested, the following has been added about the potential future research directions, as well as the long-term effects and safety of using autologous blood:

**“Considerations of Long-Term use of Autologous Blood Therapy for Ocular Conditions**

**Wiacek et al. examined the long-term effects of autologous blood therapy in the management of retinitis pigmentosa by monitoring key indices at one month and then every quarter leading up to a year. They reported the therapy to be safe and efficacious over the one-year period [170]. Lee and Chen also evaluated the safety profile of long-term autologous blood therapy in managing chronic dry eye [171]. They reported no significant complications even up to 17 months of constant use among a section of the cohort. Platelet-lysate drops, an autologous blood derivative, have also been reported to have long-term usefulness in the management of ocular graft-versus-host disease [172].**

*7- The manuscript references the PRISMA 2009 guidelines for the systematic review. However, the PRISMA guidelines were updated in 2020, with the new version published in 2021. The PRISMA 2020 guidelines provide more comprehensive and up-to-date recommendations for conducting and reporting systematic reviews. I strongly recommend revising the manuscript to align with the PRISMA 2020 guidelines to ensure that your review meets the latest standards and provides maximum clarity and precision.*

**In accordance with the suggestion made by the Reviewer, the sentence in the methods section has been changed to read:**

**"PRISMA 2020 guidelines. "We ensured that the manuscript meets the updated criteria. guidelines.**

We thank the Reviewer for the time and effort spent in providing us with valuable comments to improve the paper.

Once again, the valuable comments and assistance with our paper are greatly appreciated. Modifications have been made in accordance with the valuable suggestions of the Editor and Reviewer. We hope that all concerns have been addressed appropriately and are ready to handle further issues if necessary.

Kind regards, Marco Zeppieri (*on behalf of coauthors*)