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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

TITLE PAGE

HOW EFFECTIVE IS TACROLIMUS IN THE IMIQUIMOD - INDUCED MOUSE MODEL OF PSORIASIS?

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SHORT TITLE

HOW EFFECTIVE IS TACROLIMUS IN MURINE PSORIASIS

ABBREVIATIONS

TAC, tacrolimus; IMQ, imiquimod; Fig., Figure; TEWL, transepidermal water loss; PASI, modified psoriasis area and severity index; DXM, dexamethasone; LC-MS/MS, liquid chromatography tandem-mass spectrometry; SD, standard deviation; H&E, hematoxylin and eosin;

TO THE EDITOR

The imiquimod-induced mouse model has become a widely used standard to model human psoriasis since its introduction in 2009 and seems to mirror psoriasis in many pathogenetic, clinical, and histological features (van der Fits et al., 2009). Due to various advantages, the number of publications based on this model has increased exponentially in the past seven years (Hawkes et al., 2017). However, van der Fits et al. already stated that the models response to anti-psoriatic drugs still needs to be shown. A review article in this journal addressed a lack of validation of the model resembling human psoriasis and thus its applicability for therapeutic testing (Hawkes et al., 2017).

The immunomodulatory drug tacrolimus (TAC) is commonly used for topical treatment of dermatitis because it lacks important side effects of corticosteroids (e.g. skin atrophy). However, efficacy of topically applied TAC has not yet been achieved in the most common plaque type psoriasis, in contrast to facial and inguinal psoriasis, and its efficacy after systemic administration (Scheinfeld, 2004).

Here, we investigated how effective topical TAC treatment is in the imiquimod-induced mouse model of psoriasis.

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