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September 23, 2021

Dear Editor,

I am writing to clarify that this research **was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Israeli Ministry of Health (MOH) on January 15, 2020 (Approval number 1/2020 to trial registration number MOH 032-2019) and was extended on July 23, 2021 until July 23, 2022.**

The approval is based on Public Health Regulations- Clinical experiments on Humans in Israel (2014) and on international Declaration of Helsinki ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects.

The committee has given a waiver from any obligation to obtain informed consent in the study.

On January 15, 2020 the study was approved by the ethics committee (chair, Prof Sitvanit Alon-Shalev) and was extended on July 2021 (chair, Prof Eithan Friedman). The approval was signed by Prof Avi Israeli, the chief scientist officer in the Ministry of Health, on behalf of the Director General.

Thank you for consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

Dana Arad