Reviewer’s report

**Title:** A multicentre, randomised, double-blind, single-dose study comparing the efficacy of AMC/DCBA Warm lozenge or AMC/DCBA Cool lozenge with a non-medicated lozenge in the relief of acute sore throat

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 1 November 2010

**Reviewer:** Robert Centor

**Reviewer’s report:**

I do object to these two sentences:

Up to 80% of sore throats are caused by viruses and not bacteria [4,5]. Therefore, antibiotics are ineffective and generally not recommended for the treatment of acute sore throats [6,7].

Antibiotics are not ineffective for bacterial pharyngitis. Most countries recommend penicillin for bacterial pharyngitis. These sentences therefore are misleading.

I would recommend that they point out that this study should apply to non-bacterial pharyngitis and that physicians should be aware that a worsening course could signify a more serious problem.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests