Author’s response to reviews

Title: 24-Hour Efficacy of Once-Daily Desloratadine Therapy in Patients with Seasonal Allergic Rhinitis [ISRCTN32042139]

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Version: 5 Date: 2 Aug 2002

Dear Ms. Collett,
email: editorial@biomedcentral.com

Thank you for providing reviewer comments for the manuscript entitled "24-Hour Efficacy of Once-Daily Desloratadine Therapy in Patients with Seasonal Allergic Rhinitis" (number 3600145292566430), which was submitted to BMC Family Practice. The original manuscript has been amended per the reviewers' suggestions. Several of the comments from Dr. Schapowal are noteworthy and are discussed below in more detail. In addition, several other minor text changes were made for clarification. We are resubmitting the manuscript for your consideration.

With regard to the peer-reviewer comments, we agree with Dr. Schapowal that responder-type analyses would probably yield valuable information about the efficacy of desloratadine therapy. Unfortunately, these types of analyses have not been performed. Therefore, we were unable to include the requested information in the revised manuscript. With direction from regulatory officials, and in keeping with similar trials of other oral antihistamines, all of the efficacy analyses performed in this study were prospectively defined to assess changes from baseline values.

At the request of Dr. Schapowal, the Results section has been expanded to include additional details on statistical comparisons of the AM/PM previous individual symptom scores (rhinorrhea, nasal stuffiness/congestion, nasal itching, sneezing, itching/burning eyes, tearing/watering eyes, itching of ears or palate and redness of eyes). The addition of these individual symptoms data, in conjunction with AM instantaneous total symptom scores and AM/PM previous total nasal and non-nasal symptom scores data for the 5-, 7.5-, 10-, and 20-mg doses, should also address his comments relative to discussion of the overall efficacy of the 5-mg dose.

Lastly, Dr. Schapowal also suggests that nonapproved dosing regimens for desloratadine should be discussed. Unfortunately, we do not have any efficacy data that explores the twice-daily dosing of desloratadine.

I hope these revisions to the manuscript will satisfy the requirements for publication. I look forward to reviewing the article in its formatted stage. Please contact me at (908) 298-5454 if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,
Luis Salmun, MD