Reviewer’s report

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

Authors:

Luis M Salmun (luis.salmun@spcorp.com)
Richard Lorber (richard.lorber@spcorp.com)

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Reviewer: Dr Lawrence DuBuske, MD

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept without revision

The study of over 1000 patients was a dose-ranging study of desloratadine in seasonal allergic rhinitis and chronic ideopathic urticaria demonstrating clinical improvement of both conditions versus placebo. The introduction to the article describes the preclinical pharmacology of desloratadine adequately and accurately. The method and materials describe the method of patient evaluation, the inclusion and exclusion criteria and the randomization process, including the blinding of the drug. The methods of clinical assessment were delineated, as was the statistical analysis. In the results section the efficacy analysis included statistical evaluations demonstrating an effective dose of the drug 5 mg and above and a less effective dose 2.5 mg. An important aspect of the results was noted in the discussion namely the effect of the antihistamine being persistent at 24 hours after dosing. The figures and the end nicely display in bar graph format the total symptom score total nasal and total non-nasal symptom score reduction in the dose-ranging study. The data in the study conforms with the data shown in the figures and is supportive of the conclusions reached by the authors. This study is appropriate for publication as a paper of considerable general medical interest to the community and may be an acceptable publication as written.

Competing interests:

I am a member of the speaker’s bureau for multiple pharmaceutical companies, including Schering Plough.

I hold no stocks or shares that may gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper.

I have no other financial competing interests.

I have no non-financial competing interests to declare.