Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Dr Andreas Schapowal

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

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

The paper gives evidence for the significantly better efficacy of Desloratadine 5 - 20 mg compared to Desloratadine 2.5 mg and placebo. Conclusions are drawn adequately supported by the data shown to prove the thesis mentioned. The manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition. The writing is acceptable. However, there are two shortcomings the author should correct in order to allow a clear view of the real efficacy of Desloratine in the dosages chosen, furthermore to allow replication of the work and comparison with related analyses:
1. Only mean changes in symptom scores are reported, no absolute numbers. The reader does not know how many patients are symptom free and how many are better to which amount.
2. Data are missing to show in detail the efficacy to the nasal and nonnasal symptoms. Especially the exact outcome in each nasal symptom (rhinorrhea, congestion, itching and sneezing) would be very interesting knowing that especially in the symptom of nasal congestion antihistamines are commonly not efficient enough. For this failure in efficacy topical corticosteroids have to be prescribed in some patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis.

Showing only the relative improvement the final conclusion that a 5 mg once-daily treatment of desloratidine appears to be optimal for the treatment of SAR is not convincing at all. Furthermore the author should also discuss a treatment of desloratidine 5 mg twice daily, which might well be more efficient than a treatment once daily and as a matter fact at least from clinical experience sometimes is, especially in patients who love to sleep with open window despite their allergy to pollens.

Competing interests:

None declared.