Reviewer's report

Title: Small intestinal bacterial overgrowth in irritable bowel syndrome: are there any predictors?

Version: 1 Date: 16 February 2009

Reviewer: Stephen Vanner

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This study examines IBS patients with a "positive" GBT based on proposed criteria and correlates this with a number of clinical parameters. More patients who were female and over the age of 55 had an abnormal test.

Major comments.

1. There is no evidence that the proposed criteria for the GBT detect SIBO. There is no control group and hence we do not know what proportion of patients in the normal population would also have an abnormal test using these criteria. It may be that using criteria an equal number of women over the age of 55 will also have an "abnormal" test yet lack any symptoms.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.