Reviewer's report

Title: Gastric emptying and small intestinal transit time and motility assessed by a magnet tracking system

Version: 1 Date: 30 June 2011

Reviewer: Werner Weitschies

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It is an interesting idea to compare pill cam transit data with magnetic marker monitoring data. However the scientific quality of the manuscript needs to be improved.

Major Comments:

1) How can the authors prove that the magnets that were ingested before the meal passed the small intestine with the meal? At least the gastric emptying times and the dimensions of the swallowed magnet have to be presented and carefully discussed (see minor comments). In the submitted version this essential and critical point is completely ignored.

2) What is the scientific basis for the three motility categories chosen: Fast movements, slow movements, very slow movements?

3) How can a progression in cm be calculated when the subjects were not permanently measured?

4) How can the authors be sure that the calculated progression is movement of the magnet in the intestine and not movement of the intestines with the pill inside?

5) Was one baseline measurement used for the complete recording?

7) The included data are incomplete. The tables are not supplementary material but essential (they are also cited in the manuscript).

8) A description of the magnet is completely missing (dimensions, material, magnetic moment) but essential (see major comments).

9) What data are presented in Table 1? Fasting or fed conditions? All transit data need be listed.

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 have no competing interests.