Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessment of Helicobacter pylori eradication in patients on NSAID treatment

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Reviewer: Guoxin Zhang

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The manuscript entitled “Assessment of Helicobacter pylori eradication in patients on NSAID treatment” by HE Vonkeman et al presents a post-hoc investigation into H. pylori IgG-antibody titer changes following H. pylori eradication therapy in NSAID users. They concluded that in NSAID using patients, following H. pylori eradication therapy or placebo, histological examination of gastric mucosal tissue biopsies provided the best sensitivity and specificity ratios for evaluating success of H. pylori eradication therapy, and a percentual H. pylori IgG-antibody titer change has better sensitivity and specificity than an absolute titer change or a predefined H. pylori IgG antibody titer cut-off point for evaluating success of H. pylori eradication therapy. The study is globally well performed, however, several points are incomplete.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors found that histological examination provided the best sensitivity and specificity ratios for evaluating success of H. pylori eradication therapy in NSAID using patients. It should be discussed in the section of discussion.

2. Can authors consider the sensitivity and specificity of different tests of H. pylori in NSAID-naïve patients in comparison with NSAID users in sub-analysis?

3. PPI usage may obtain false negative results, however, we didn’t see if there was PPI usage in two groups of H. pylori eradication therapy and placebo.

4. In discussion section, NSAID using did not seem to influence H. pylori eradication rates or serological testing for H. pylori, but they only selected patients with NSAID using. It would be better if there are results from the group of NSAID using and the group of non- NSAID using.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.