Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of Argon Plasma Coagulation in Management of Upper Gastrointestinal Angiodysplasia and Gastric Antral Vascular Ectasia Hemorrhage

Version: 2 Date: 5 February 2012

Reviewer: Christopher Vickers

Reviewer's report:

The paper is an interesting study on the comparison of an established technique to control bleeding from two uncommon causes of gastric bleeding. They provide good numbers of patients in a situation where the average gastroenterologist may see only very small infrequent patients. The paper is publishable although the techniques are not new. The value of the paper lies in its clinical numbers and sufficiency for comparisons.

The paper needs to be returned to the authors for corrections and amendments especially to methodology and results and be reviewed again before it is published.

The following should be noted to the authors for improvements to the paper:

Methods:
1. Should mention the phrase "prospective study" if applicable;
2. The Argon gas flow is stated 1-2 l/min. What exactly was the gas flow 1 or 2 l/min or was it arbitrary and variable. If it was variable then the authors should state this and compare the results with this additional parameter. 2 l/min gives deeper level of cautery and may play a role in the control of bleeding and risk of rebleeding. If the authors do not have this data the this must be discussed in the Discussion section. They do discuss this aspect in general but without reference to their results and flow rates.
3. Was a PPI infusion given post-APC for all patients as per Hong Kong protocol. If so, which PPI and the infusion rate. If it was bolus PPI the authors should state this and comment on why they used bolus and not infusion.
4. Were patients using aspirin or anti-inflammatory drugs excluded from the study.

Results:
1. Please state details of radiation therapy. Was this intra-arterial radioembolisation, external beam or simply TACE. Were patients given preliminary arterial occlusion embolisation to the left gastric artery or other vessels on the work up before radiation therapy.
2. Please state if rebleeding was from the treatment sites or untreated sites.
Discussion:
1. Paragraph 5 Sentence commencing "surgical intervention......" is ambiguous and needs rewriting.

References:
Reference 3 needs re-checking. Is the journal Gastroenterology which is being quoted. ? "Gastroenterologist" is not a journal which I am familiar with.

Table 1:
The ranges should be identified as 1 or 2 Standard deviations by a note on the Table.
Figures which are not significant could be deleted and substituted by p=NS

Spelling and Grammar
Some rewriting and corrections need to be made to conform with spelling and grammar. For example the first word of the paper is "ABARACT" instead of ABSTRACT. There are other instances in the paper that require correction.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.