Reviewer’s report

Title: Treatment of children and adolescents with ulcerative colitis by adsorptive depletion of myeloid lineage leucocytes as monotherapy or in combination with low dose prednisolone after failure of first-line medications

Version: 3 Date: 16 July 2013

Reviewer: Jennifer deBruyn

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the revised manuscript by Tanaka et al. The authors have adequately addressed the majority of comments. I also suggest future use of more widely-used disease activity and endoscopic indices, such as the PUCAI and Mayo endoscopic score.

Minor essential revisions:

1. There is a discrepancy in enrolment period. The abstract states that subjects participated between 2010 and 2012 whereas the methods section indicates the trial period between 2000 and 2012. Please clarify.

2. All acronyms should be defined prior to their use. What is CE? (Methods: GMA procedures)

3. Correct grammar and spelling errors in ‘Treatment safety, feasibility, and patients’ compliance”

4. Categorize Table 1 by patient response (to salicylates alone, GMA alone, or GMA and prednisolone). This helps the reader identify the baseline demographics of each class of patients. Alternatively, the data can also be presented differently in Table 1 to improve it’s readability: Ie, Column titles: Salicylate alone, GMA alone, GMA and prednisolone. Rows would read: Gender (M/F) n (%), Age (mean or median with standard deviation or range), weight (mean or median with standard deviation or range), baseline medication (mean or median with standard deviation or range), location of UC, n (%), duration of UC (mean or median with standard deviation or range), CAI (mean or median with standard deviation or range), DAI (mean or median with standard deviation or range).

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'