Reviewer's report

Title: Medication adherence and persistence in the treatment of Canadian ulcerative colitis patients: analyses with the RAMQ database

Version: 2 Date: 25 September 2012

Reviewer: Barney Hawthorne

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written study of adherence to mesalamine in a large population of UC patients.

The low adherence and persistence are perhaps unsurprising.

Minor comments

1) No data on dose used, and dose frequency. This data may not be available from the database. If not this should be made clear.

2) In the background, p.4 2nd paragraph the authors state that Mezavant multimatrix pH-dependent and gastro-resistant coating is the reason the drug can be taken once daily. It should be made clear that the Eudragit-S coating delays release until the distal ileum/caecum is reached, and the hydrophilic and lipophilic matrix core allows gradual release of drug as it passes through the colon. The design is intended to allow more mucosal contact with the native drug before N-acetylation, The manufacturers had the foresight to use trial designs to demonstrate once-daily therapy was as effective as divided dose, and the same has now been shown for most other delayed release mesalamine preparations. This should be clarified.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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