Author's response to reviews

Title: Are Proton Pump Inhibitors the First Choice for Acute Treatment of Gastric Ulcers? A Meta Analysis of Randomized Clinical Trials

Authors:

Maribel Salas (msalas@caroresearch.com)
Alexandra Ward (alexward@caroresearch.com)
Jaime Caro (jcaro@caroresearch.com)

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PDF covering letter
July 3rd, 2002

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled Are Proton Pump Inhibitors the First Choice for Acute Treatment of Gastric Ulcers? A Meta Analysis of Randomized Clinical Trial, with our response to reviewers’ comments.

I certify that none of the material in this manuscript has been previously published and none of this material is under consideration, or has been accepted for publication elsewhere. All of the authors have participated in the work and writing of the manuscript. They have seen and approved the paper. Although Janssen Ortho Canada provided funding for portions of the study, no editorial control was allowed. We would be pleased to supply the paragraphs from the funding contract that highlight this point, if necessary.

All correspondence regarding the manuscript, and the proofs, will be handled by me. I can be contacted by mail at: Caro Research, 336 Baker Avenue, Concord, MA 01742, by phone: (978) 371-1660, fax (978) 371-2445, or by email: msalas@caroresearch.com.

We checked the formatting of our manuscript and we think that it is ready for publication. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Maribel Salas MD DSc
Response to review comments:  Article title: Are Proton Pump Inhibitors the First Choice for Acute Treatment of Gastric Ulcers? A Meta Analysis of Randomized Clinical Trials
Authors: Maribel Salas, Alexandra Ward and Jaime Caro
Journal: BMC Gastroenterology

First Reviewer: Dr. Alan Thomson
Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest
Advice on publication: Accept without revision
This is clearly written, thoroughly researched meta-analysis using appropriate methodology to compare the gastric ulcer healing rates at different time intervals versus ranitidine or omeprazole.

Second Reviewer: Dr. Christian Pehl
Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest
Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions
Salas et colleagues present a meta-analysis of studies dealing with acid suppressive therapy of gastric ulcers. They conclude that PPIs, especially the newer ones, are the first choice for gastric ulcer treatment.

Commentary:
This is a well-performed study with appropriate statistics. However, at least from a clinical point of view, it appears questionable to exclude papers with treatment of helicobacter pylori, respectively, with a combined PPI and antibiotic therapy. About 60-70% (with falling tendency) of gastric ulcers are helicobacter pylori positive and these patients would receive immediately a combined therapy in clinical routine. Since this combined therapy is not done to speed healing but to prevent a relapse of the disease, it does not seem necessary to exclude these papers. By the inclusion of these papers, the power of the meta-analysis would certainly increase.

Salas, et al RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS
We appreciate reviewers' comments: We agree that the association of Helicobacter pylori and gastric ulcer has been well established and thus the combination of PPI and –antibiotics is an attractive treatment. We did not include papers addressing combination therapy because this meta-analysis was part of a larger study addressing the use of PPIs in various conditions and thus combination therapy did not meet our criteria. We have added a statement regarding this treatment to the discussion.