Reviewer’s report

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

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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.

Comment (discretionary revision):

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 inculsion of these papers, the power of the meta-analysis would certainly increase

Competing interests:

None declared.