Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of abdominal hot compresses on indocyanine green elimination - a randomized cross over study in healthy subjects

Version: 1 Date: 8 January 2007

Reviewer: Samir Sakka

Reviewer's report:

In 13 healthy volunteers, Dr. Huber et al. studied the effects of abdominal warm wraps on indocyanine green plasma disappearance rate (ICG-PDR) as an indicator of hepato-splanchnic blood flow. In their results, no significant increase in ICG-PDR was observed, thus the authors conclude that abdominal warm compresses do not lead to an increase in intestinal blood flow.

This study is of particular clinical interest. However, I have some comments:

General comments:
1. Please mention the results on liver specific enzyme tests you obtained.
2. You mention in detail the area you warmed, however, data on patients height and weight are missing.
3. One major limitation is that you did not have any reference technique for your ICG-PDR findings. Did you perform Doppler ultrasound or use other reference techniques?
4. What about variability of ICG-PDR measurements per se?
5. Please express ICG half life data also as k-value (%/min).
6. Your discussion should mention also limitations of your study (see above).

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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 received honoraria from Pulsion Medical Systems AG for giving lectures.