Reviewer's report

Title: Efficacy of Rifabutin-based Triple Therapy as Second-line to Eradicate Helicobacter Pylori Infection

Version: 1 Date: 7 March 2007

Reviewer: Colm A O'Morain

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study in which two second line regimes were compared. Quadruple therapy (omeprazole, bismuth, amoxicillin and rifabutin) was compared to rifabutin amoxicillin and omeprazole, all given for one week. The presence of H. pylori was tested by an endoscopy and by histology, microbiology and a rapid urease test and a U.B.T. test. The study was originally designed to recruit 220 patients but an interim analysis allowed discontinuance of the study. It is a carefully planned administrative study. Eradication rates with the triple rifabutin was disappointing. Reasons for the failure are not clear. No antibiograms were done.

Questions
? All of the patients who failed to complete the course of treatment should be in the intention to trial and considered positive in the ITT.
? Figure 2 could be left out.
? Why were test and treat patients left out?

Overall an excellent paper which is well written and concise. A negative important result which has clinical importance.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.