Reviewer’s report

Title: Time Esophageal pH<4 Overestimates the Prevalence of Pathologic Esophageal Reflux in Subjects with Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Treated with Proton Pump Inhibitors

Version: 2 Date: 25 January 2008

Reviewer: Mattijs E Numans

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

I would want the authors to explain briefly what the concept of "integrated acidity" is, what it means and how it is measured in the method section, in stead of simply referring to "previously published" material. And I would like to read how this is related to other ways of classifying pathologic reflux (SSI, SAP etc) either in the methods section, or in the discussion, to be able to put their findings in perspective.

Secondly it seems important to be able to read clearly what the relevance of the misclassification issue that this manuscript tells us about, is from a clinical point of view. I can live with a discussion on diagnostic test characteristics too, but nor the diagnostic nor the prognostic meaning of their findings is described clearly in the text.

Minor Essential Revisions

I would want to see the most relevant ROC-curves in the manuscript, in stead of only mentioning AUC’s in tables as the authors do now.

Discretionary Revisions

Relatively correct language use. However, discussion section might be shortened by more concise writing.

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

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.