Reviewer’s report

Title: Erythromycin Lacks Colon Prokinetic Effect in Children with Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders, A Retrospective Study

Version: 2 Date: 28 January 2008

Reviewer: Hiroyuki Kuwano

Reviewer’s report:

This original manuscript demonstrated the study showing the effect of erythromycin on the colon motility of children with chronic constipation evaluated by colon and antroduodenal manometries. This study is interesting, because there are only a few reports for the effect of erythromycin on the colon motility of children with chronic constitution. However, there are some points to be clarified in this study to publish the journal.

Major comments

1. There was no Figure in this manuscript. Typical results of manotetric recording for colonic examinations, including the effects of erythromycin, bisacodyl, and meal (gastrocolic response) on the recording, should be demonstrated.

2. The results, including the effect of erythromycin on AUC, the patterns of gastrocolic response, and an incidence of HAPC before and after the bisacodyl administration, should be summarized in Tables.

3. The authors showed that there was no HAPC at the time following the meal. Is this finding to be an abnormal? Is this finding a feature of patients with functional constipation and/or fecal incontinence? There have been some reports that study the colon manometry of pediatric patients with chronic constipation. The author could refer the manometric results of these reports, and discuss or suggest the feature of colonic motility in the patients with chronic constipation.

4. The authors should discuss the mechanism of down regulation of erythromycin on the colonic motility. It would be thought that erythromycin should affect the colonic motility because of significant down regulation after the administration of erythromycin. Please discuss the mechanism of this phenomenon.

Minor comments

1. The patients’ profile was included in Results. This information would be suitable to be described in Materials and Methods.

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: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.