Reviewer's report

Title: Commonly used bowel preparations have significant and different effects upon cell proliferation in the colon: a pilot study

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Reviewer: Robert A Goodlad

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The authors describe some changes in cell proliferation following preparation with Picolax [actively draw water into the bowel lumen] – and Prep, a lavage solution with some osmotic activity
The Number of subjects is rather low but nevertheless some significant differences were observed. The results have some relevance and are worth publishing.
Other points
(p=0.0192) and pHH3 (p=0.0170) suggest round up
“floor-to-ceiling” please elaborate
No effect in HNPCC – there have been reports of much increased crypt fission in FAP see Wasan h et al.
Value of methods and applicability to biopsy samples should be elaborated i.e. PCNA is of dubious value as it has anomalous results and is difficult to standardize and micro dissection allows many crypts to be studied. – See Hall P and see Alferez and Goodlad in Cell Proliferation
Were effects of food intake [or lack of it] the same? I.e. were the unpreped starved in a similar manner. Should discuss the concepts of luminal nutrition/luminal workload.