Reviewer's report

Title: High efficacy in Helicobacter pylori retreatment: seven days with furazolidone, levofloxacin and lansoprazole, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Version: 2 Date: 21 November 2008

Reviewer: V Ahuja

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This is a well conducted study which looks at the efficacy and tolerability rates of a furazolidone salvage therapy. This may be a pertinent question to be answered as the number of H.pylori eradication failures are on the rise in developing countries. Hence there is a need to test various salvage therapies which are not affected by metronidazole as well as clarithromycin resistance.

Major problems with this study:

1. Antibiotic sensitivity tests on gastric biopsies have not been conducted.
2. The sample size is not large

The authors need to discuss these two major limitations of this study in the Discussion section.

Minor problems:

1. It is not clear as on what basis the investigators decided to give the therapy for 7 days and not ten days or 14 days. The investigators should discuss the previously published literature on furazolidone based therapies and the impact of therapy duration.
2. It would be interesting to know what was the status of urease based tests versus histology in determining eradication status. As eradication status was defined as 2 of 3 tests negative. Is it possible that eradication rates were overestimated in case there was a skew of urease based tests being negative as opposed to histology? This is a well described phenomenon which may occur particularly in situations where H.pylori density is low.
3. Table 6 should be described in greater detail in Results section
4. Table 5 may be deleted
5. Table 2: the activity scale has not been mentioned in methods section