Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 3 Date: 16 January 2009

Reviewer: Ala I Sharara

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have addressed most of the concerns raised. However, the following issues require additional clarifications and modifications. The authors have failed to properly address one of the raised points (see below). Their response that “The treatment schemes used in these patients already tested in our service have shown fewer efficacies (4, 7 e 8). A Brazilian Helicobacter pylori sensibility study showed a 13% furazolidone primary resistance (3). In another study (9), the secondary furazolidone resistance was also low.” does NOT answer the query on the eradication rate of patients who had previously failed one or more furazolidone-containing regimen(s).

Major issues:

1. From table 2 (Table 3 in the first submission), it appears that 15 patients had previously failed one (or more in the case of 2 patients) furazolidone-containing regimen. It is therefore important to examine the eradication rate in such patients compared to furazolidone-naïve patients. Moreover, 3 patients received “other” regimens under the 3 or more prior regimen category. If any of those had received furazolidone in the past, they need to be added to the analysis of the 15 listed above.

2. The discussion is very disjointed and needs to be rewritten as distinct paragraphs addressing distinct points

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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'