Reviewer's report

Title: The association between serious upper gastrointestinal bleeding and incident bisphosphonate use: A population-based nested cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 16 October 2012

Reviewer: William Gibson

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper and is generally well written. Its conclusions are valid based on the data presented, and are of clinical significance

Major Compulsory Revisions

1: The term "serious upper GI bleed" is used 20 times in the manuscript, but is never defined. The authors should clarify if they are using a standardised tool to grade severity, such as the Rockall score, or using proxy markers such as hospitalisation, length of inpatient stay, death, need for transfusion, or need for OGD, for example.

2: Osteoporosis is listed as a comorbidity included in the analysis (section headed "Explanatory Variables". All patients in the study, by definition, had osteoporosis.

3: The conclusion gives the relative risk increase of UGI bleeding. The absolute risk should also be given.

Minor Compulsory Revisions:

1: There are 2 errant apostrophes (PPI’s and patient’s) which should be removed.

2: In the results section, it is unclear what level of significance was reached for the differences. The word "all" should be inserted before p<0.001 (page 11, line 13)

3: The authors often clarify the p values given as "for chi square differences between groups". As they define their statistical methods and all the p values are calculated with Pearson's chi square test, this phrase is unnecessary and can be removed.

Discretionary Revisions

1: The patent on aledronate expired in 2008. As such, there are other manufacturers and brand names for aledronate. This should be clarified in the introduction (page 6), although during the time covered by these data the only manufacturers were the patent holders.
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 have received speaker fees from Pfizer who manufacture Alendronate.