Reviewer's report

Title: practical guides for utilisation of ordinary leeches

Version: 1 Date: 1 March 2004

Reviewer: William C Lineaweaver

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I do not recommend publication of this article.

Disinfection of leeches by disinfectant ambient solutions has been discussed by several investigators, some of which are acknowledged in this paper. The disadvantages of such measures include shortening the storage life of leeches by disrupting their bacteria-dependent digestion and interfering with their activity levels.

The authors ignore a simple observation published some time ago (Ann. Plast. Surg. 29:238 an 245, 1992), that administration to patients of antibiotics effective against leech enteric organisms appear to abolish clinical infection related to leech application.

What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound