Reviewer's report

**Title:** Understanding Patients' Perspective in the Use of Generic Antiepileptic Drugs: Compelling Lessons for Physicians to Improve Physician-Patient Communication

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 1 January 2009

**Reviewer:** Ley W Sander

**Reviewer's report:**

This paper purports to show the patient’s view on the generic substitution of AEDs. The paper is well written and covers the background issues well. Patients’ views seem to have arisen from a physician-lead forum in which the usual physicians/industry concerns on the issue of generic substitution were touched. Little is said about how the patients with epilepsy were gathered and even less is said about the methodology that was used to gather the views of the patients. The forum was sponsored by one of the pharma companies with an interest in the area as it has a new AED which patent is about to run out. It seems that the views of the leader of the forum and of the sponsoring company were the main subject of the discussion and this may introduce an objectivity bias to whatever comes out of this. Therefore, a clearer explanation of how the forum was conducted, the number of patients present and how they come together must be provided. In addition, information on how views were scored must be provided. A robust discussion of the potential bias and shortcoming of the methodology used must be aired. Epileptic patients should be avoided and person with epilepsy used instead.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have received research grants, travel grants and honoraria from several companies manufacturing antiepileptic drugs including the sponsor (UCB Pharma) of the patient forum reported in this paper.