Reviewer's report

Title: Tetrabenazine as Anti-Chorea Therapy in Huntington Disease: An Open-Label Continuation Study

Version: 1 Date: 21 May 2009

Reviewer: Ralf Reilmann

Reviewer's report:

The authors report novel and important clinical observations about efficacy, safety, and tolerability in the long-term use of tetrabenazine in HD. The manuscript is well written in the context of the current literature, timely and of interest to the field. The study design and statistics used are appropriate. Data and conclusions are presented clearly and limitations of the study are acknowledged.

Minor essential revisions:

(1) Was any of the main side effects associated with treatments consisting of a specific class of medication?

(2) Controlling for Parkinsonian side-effects by creating a "UHDRS-Parkinsonism-Score" is acknowledged. However, the selection of the sub-items could be challenged, e.g., tandem walking and gait. Negative effects of TBZ on the score may not be detected if the anti-choreic effects are improving the score. Adding a more selective composite score, e.g. a sum of bradykinesia, rigidity may provide additional interesting clinical information.

(3) Discussion: Why is increase of parkinsonism scores more likely due to disease progression than side effects of TBZ - please explain.

Discretionary Revisions:

(1) Conclusion: "...as do the indications for suppressing chorea..." or "...as does the indication..."

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests