Author's response to reviews

Title: Efficacy and tolerability of PEG-only laxative on faecal impaction and chronic constipation in children: a randomized controlled study vs a standard PEG-electrolyte laxative.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Prof. Marchisio,

Thank you for your decision allowing us to make a revision of our Manuscript 2010-0433 "EFFICACY AND TOLERABILITY OF PEG-ONLY LAXATIVE ON FAECAL IMPACTION AND CHRONIC CONSTIPATION IN CHILDREN. A CONTROLLED RANDOMIZED STUDY VS A STANDARD PEG-ELECTROLYTE LAXATIVE" - F. Savino M.D. Ph D, S. Viola M.D., E Maiullari M.D., G. Di Nardo* M.D., S. Oliva* M.D. and S. Cucchiara* M.D. Ph Det al. for publication in BMC Pediatrics.

We believe that we have now satisfied all the requests raised by Reviewer 2 (Mike Geraint), and we hope that this meet the high standard of BMC Pediatric.

Following the Editorial request we add the sentence” The experimental products were supplied by PROMEFARM srl, Milano (Italy)”to the section “Competing interest.”

These data have not been published previously and are not under consideration for publication by any other journal. All authors have read and approved the version of the article being submitted.

We look forward to your review of the article and hope for a favourable outcome and subsequent publication in BMC Pediatrics.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

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Response to Reviewer 2 (Mike Geraint)

1) Relative doses of these two products.
The text has been changed to satisfy the request of the reviewer. The phrase “The probable explanation” has been used instead of “another possible explanation”. Page 10.

We also change the phrase of the abstract.

“At the approved and tested doses, children in the PEG-only group had higher and more regular soft stool frequency than PEG-EL.” Page 3.

Author’s Comments: As clinicians we used both products according to prescribing information which has made clear to the reader. The alternative situation, hat is to compare the products with the same amount of PEG would have been unfeasible due to off-label use

2) Reference to support statement
As requested by the reviewer we deleted the statement with the reference to De Giorgio “There is increasing evidence that electrolytes are only important when the amount of PEG is very high, i.e. when PEG is used for bowel preparations prior to colonoscopy (12). Page 9 – 10.

3) Function of electrolytes
We accept the point raised by the reviewer and changed the text accordingly. Page 9.

4) Osmolarity of solution
We delete the phrase in the text “On the other hand PEG-only formulation is a hypo-osmotic solution which may favour rehydration”. Page 9