Reviewer's report

Title: Long-acting methylphenidate formulations in the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: a narrative, systematic review of head-to-head studies

Version: 1 Date: 17 June 2013

Reviewer: Liang-Jen Wang

Reviewer's report:

The authors provide a systematic review of head-to-head studies with regard to pharmacokinetics and efficacy of different long-acting methylphenidate (MPH) formulations. Overall, this paper is generally well-written and has several merits including originality of study design and important clinical topic.

I have only discretionary revisions to suggest:

The authors suggest that “For patients achieving suboptimal effects with a long-acting MPH medication, switching to another MPH formulation should be considered” in conclusions and clinical recommendations (Page 34, line 12).

The conclusion might be mainly drawn from the evidence of the switching studies. However, I wonder how many switching studies conducted in a cross-over design. The results of open-label studies with single arm might be easily influenced by placebo effect or patients' natural maturation.

In addition, because the health insurance systems are diverse over the world, different long-acting MPH formulations may not be concomitantly available for prescription in every country. The authors may want to provide a short description about the list of countries in which switching a long-acting MPH formulation to another is practical.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests