Reviewer’s report

Title: Cardiac safety of indacaterol in healthy subjects: a randomized, multidose, placebo- and positive-controlled, parallel-group thorough QT study

Version: 1 Date: 30 January 2011

Reviewer: Mario Cazzola

Reviewer’s report:

I must congratulate the authors for having conducted a study that, to the best of my knowledge, is the largest thorough QT study done thus far with any #2-agonist. This study perfectly fits with International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use E14 Guidance. The data from this study demonstrate the absolute cardiac tolerance of indacaterol. This is a fundamental information given the long duration of action of indacaterol.

The only minor criticism that I have to make is related to the fact that the authors have not compared the effect of indacaterol to that of formoterol, a #2-agonist with greater intrinsic activity. Given the importance of intrinsic activity of #2-agonists, this concept should be considered at least in the discussion.

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 am a consultant of Novartis and a member of its COPD speaker bureau