Reviewer's report

Title: A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Trial of Oral Montelukast in Acute Asthma Exacerbation

Version: 1 Date: 19 October 2012

Reviewer: Takeharu Koga

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The authors tested the efficacy of oral montelukast in acute asthma exacerbation in a RCT, and concluded that the drug showed no significant advantageous effect over placebo. Before reaching the conclusion, there is a criticism to be cleared as to the results and discussion.

Major compulsories

1) More detailed results should be presented. Since PEFR was recorded frequently, plotting the change during the treatment (such as on admission, 12h, 24h, 48h, and on discharge) would be useful and appealing for comparison. There are no explanations as to where the table 2 goes.

2) Aren’t there any differences in the treatment except test drugs, such as corticosteroid and antibiotics? What about the dose of the inhaled corticosteroid before enrollment? These differences should be included in the table.

Minor essentials

1) As the authors cited as ref17, another similar study gave different results. There is a significant difference in the readings of PEFR between the two (the present study and ref17) studies. Why? And, isn’t this has any relation with the contrasting results?

2) Aren’t there any patients who were on inhaled corticosteroid alone or on oral corticosteroid?

Discretionary

1) Those patients controlled with inhaled corticosteroid+long acting #2 agonist were regularly used their drugs? (There are patients who do not use the prescribed drug as is instructed)

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.