Reviewer’s report

Title: Efficacy and safety of moxifloxacin in acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis: a prospective, multicenter, observational study (AVANTI)

Version: 2 Date: 27 October 2012

Reviewer: Françoise Van Bambeke

Reviewer’s report:

This paper reports an observational study of the efficacy and safety of moxifloxacin in chronic bronchitis.

Although the design of the study is weak, the data is of interest because of the large number of patients included.

My comments are as follow.

1. The text is very long and could be shortened easily of at least 30 %. Most of the data are detailed in the table and do not need to be repeated in the text.

2. Figures 2 and 3 could be converted to tables and Figure 5 should be replaced by a sentence in the text because it presents a rather 'subjective' criterion.

3. The target population in the study is supposed to be COPD patients. The definition of such a population should be clarified. In the first sentence of the last paragraph, page 10, the authors indicate that 66% of patients were COPD. Table 1 mentions that 99.9 % of patients has chronic bronchitis. This is somewhat contradictory. moreover, in some of these patients the onset of the pathology was quite recent.

4. The last parameter presented in Table 1 is unclear: what do the authors mean by 'last antibiotic treatment ; yes-no' ? Which antibiotic ? Time from the last treatment ?

5. A few patients did receive doses higher than those recommended in the SPC. Why ? Were these patients obese ? Did they show any signs of toxicity ?

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