Reviewer's report

Title: Safety and efficacy of duloxetine treatment in older and younger patients with osteoarthritis knee pain: a post hoc, subgroup analysis of two randomized, placebo-controlled trials

Version: 2 Date: 25 January 2013

Reviewer: Worawit Louthrenoo

Reviewer's report:

This is a post hoc analysis of the efficacy and safety analysis of the effect of duloxetine on pain in osteoarthritis, comparing between the older and the younger age group. The results showed similar efficacy and tolerability in both age groups, and increasing dose to 120 mg/day in those who did not response did not get any further benefits.

The study was well conducted and the manuscript was well written. However, there are some points that need to be clarified.

1. A code (e.g. *) should be shown to show the p value (comparison between the older age group and the younger age group) in table 1.
2. Table 2 can be omitted, and re-write in a text format
3. In table 3, the number of patients with constipation in the older age group is much higher than the younger age group. However, this was not mentioned the difference in the manuscript, as well as a p value was not shown in table 3.
4. In table 4, the authors should mentioned why they use N for number of patients at baseline who were at risk for abnormality, rather than using the real number of the patients. The p value in the column treatment by age-group interaction should also be provided.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests