Reviewer's report

Title: Overuse of Non-Prescription Analgesics by Dental Clinic Patients

Version: 2 Date: 8 August 2008

Reviewer: Peter L Jacobsen

Reviewer's report:

i have reviewed the article, biomedcentral.com/imedia/9916148842074731_article.pdf and i would suggest acceptance, with three suggested edits/concerns.

the authors talk about supratherapeutic dose, but never provide a definition of the maximum therapeutic dose. i think all the drugs listed should have the authors definition of the max therapeutic dose included. this paper will be read all over the world and the dose may vary in different locations. besides they note that patients don't know the max dose, i am willing to bet most dentists don't know the max daily dose for ibuprofen, acetaminophen or aspirin.

tables would be useful to summarize the data, list the max doses, and, as an educational benefit to the readers they may also elect to make a table of the common toxicities associated with overdose of the different drugs.

lastly, they suggest at end of page 11 beginning of page 12 that the dentist should ascertain the OTC pain drugs taken by the patient and if it is supratherapeutic, to council them on overdose and evaluate for problems. that seems like good advice, but it also suggests/sets a standard of care that is beyond what is usually done in most offices. based on such a recommendation in a paper such as this, the risk of liability increases for dentists, since a lawyer could use such published articles to claim a new standard of care. the authors may want to rephrase their suggests to be more consistant with what is now standard, at the same time suggesting that improvements in evaluating patient risks should be considered.