Reviewer's report

Title: Alternative vs. conventional treatment given on-demand for gastroesophageal reflux disease: a randomised controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 8 December 2008

Reviewer: Glyn Jamieson

Reviewer's report:

I think it is a well conducted trial. My comments fall into the minor discretionary category.

1. I would not rate Aflurax as an alternative or complementary medicine in the usual meaning of that term. Alkalis such as used here have a well established place in the symptomatic treatment of Reflux. I'm not sure that the so called rafting effect has ever been established as being more than the antacid effect of agents such as bicarbonate and carbonate.

2. The authors have not defined what they mean by mild /moderate reflux. I think this is an important oversight, which should be easily correctable.

3. I don't think the study does indicate that "alternative products could have a place in the therapeutic armamentarium" since I don't think they have established that what they have shown was any more than that on demand Nexium is better than antacids (which I think is an interesting finding and justifies reporting the study.)

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 no competing interests