Reviewer’s report

Title: A retrospective claims analysis of combination therapy in the treatment of adult attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

Version: 2 Date: 26 August 2008

Reviewer: Jari Haukka

Reviewer’s report:

This interesting report based on large amount of data. I have following comments

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. In abstract it is stated “Prescription dispensing events were drawn from a national claims database including over 80 managed-care plans.” Probably this means USA national database.

2. It is said that “...study was a retrospective claims analysis of data obtained from the PharMetrics, Inc. data warehouse on October 6, 2005.”. How did authors get access to this database? Who gave permission? Is this database open to all research workers? Do people in different health care programs give their permission to use their data in research? I think some more details how data was gathered is needed. What kind of selection there is in this kind of database compared to whole population of USA.

3. Page 8. results from logistic regression are presented. Did authors test any interactions?

4. Figure 1. text should be clarified. Explanation for “AXT” and “LAS” in figure. We all variables presented in figure same time in model. It would be informative to have similar figure but with univariate results (probably these figure could presented side by side).

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Table 1. could contain producer name for each drug (because Eli Lilly is funding this study).

2. Table 2. : too many decimals, %-sign not needed after each number, should be put in header. It is a bit confusing that some categories add to 100% (age) and others do not (e.g. prior claim diag.)

3. Table 3. Caption is not clear “Percent of Non-First Months of Treatment in which Multiple ADHD Medications were Prescribed.”, but in foot note months are referred. The caption and footnote should be rewritten, because table in this form is difficult to interpret.
4. In “LIMITATIONS” section it is stated “Second, the provider type “psychiatrist” is imputed within the PharMetrics database and may include some psychologists and social workers billing for services typical of psychiatrists.”. Where do this refer? Probably something is missing from “METHODS” section? Are psychologists and social workers entitled to prescribe drugs in all part of USA?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have served as consultant to Janssen-Cilag.