Reviewer's report

Title: Modification of stool's water content in constipated infants: management by an adapted infant formula

Version: 2 Date: 1 September 2010

Reviewer: Zhaoxiang Bian

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Format: As a clinical trial, it is necessary to adapt the standard of CONOSR, which the updated version-CONSORT 2010 has been available since July 2010. The format of this manuscript should follow that well-recognized international standards. The website of CONOSRT is www.consort-statement.com

2. Abstract: It is necessary to have key information about the trial in it, such as the diagnosis criteria, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and the outcome assessment. Also the important data related to the outcome should be involved too.

3. Aim of the study: As stated in the Background part, ‘this study is to provide biochemical and clinical efficacy with a specific anticonstipation formula to increase intestinal transit and decrease hard stools’. To decrease hard stool is easily measurable, but not for the intestinal transit. Also there is no method in this manuscript to measure intestinal transit, because the times of stool is not equal to intestinal transit.

4. What is the definition of mild constipation? What kind of constipation involved in this study? Mild or serious one? Based on what scale? On Bristol Stool chart?

5. Setting of the trial: Where this trial has happened?

6. How to define the painful stools? Especially for those participates aged 4-10 weeks?

7. Any assessment or examinations have been conducted for these constipation patients? Is it functional one or organic one?

8. What is the base for the sample size calculation?

9. Dietary should be used as a tool to record the progress of the patients after the treatment.

10. What is the rationale of dosage determination of formula?

- Minor Essential Revisions

English writing should be improved.

Suggestion

- Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded
to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest
- An article of VERY limited interest

Quality of written English
- Needs some language corrections before being published

Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests