Reviewer’s report

Title: Review: Thickening agents used for dysphagia management: Effect on bioavailability of water, medication and feelings of satiety

Version: 1 Date: 15 March 2013

Reviewer: Nicole Pulia

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1) Please make sure to include references for the statements that dehydration is very common in dysphagic patients, that people who are on thickened liquids do not drink enough and that speech pathologists recommend small amounts of thickened liquids.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1) It is difficult to read titles of subsections; please change them to make them more clear.
2) In the abstract, please clarify the statement “prevalence peaks in infancy and old age”. This is difficult to know this for sure since there is not good prevalence data for dysphagia.
3) The last line of the abstract is not grammatically correct: “With poor flavour, and an increasing feelings of fullness there”
4) Double-check for spelling errors; there were some throughout.
5) What is meant by physicochemical? Please provide a definition or clarify this term.
6) Please re-word the statement “USA is anticipating”- Is there a particular organization that has predicted this rather than the entire country?
7) What do you mean by the term “aged care residents”?
8) Would recommend saying “dysphagia results from many conditions” instead of “dysphagia accompanies”
9) Please provide a reference for the statement/idea that liquids flow unpredictably
10) For the prevalence study on use of thickened liquids, make sure to mention that this study looked at individuals in skilled nursing facilities only.
11) “recent worrying reports”- better way to phrase this?
12) Make sure you use the same font throughout each table.

Discretionary Revisions:

1) Recommend use of parentheses rather than brackets in the text; brackets are confusing.
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.