Reviewer's report

Title: Topical insulin-like growth factor-1 treatment using gelatin hydrogels for glucocorticoid-resistant sudden sensorineural hearing loss: a prospective clinical trial

Version: 2 Date: 15 October 2010

Reviewer: David J Lim

Reviewer's report:

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The treatment for sudden sensorineural hearing loss is an important clinical issue facing ENT specialists, largely due to the narrow window of the effective treatment; which can significantly impact the clinical outcome. The most common choice of treatment for sudden sensorineural hearing loss is the phased systemic glucocorticoid treatment, which should be started as early as possible. However, there is a group of patients who are resistant to the glucocorticoid treatment. In this study, the authors treated these patients with tropical insulin-like growth factor-1 using gelatin hydrogel releasing methods, which they have developed, were found to improve hearing after treatment. All in all, the questions raised are well defined, and this study is well conceived, well designed, and the analysis of the data is well within the accepted methods. The interpretation of the results also appears reasonable.

This revised manuscript responded well to all concerns raised and clarifications needed. Author's point-by-point responses are adequate to this reviewer's satisfaction. English is acceptable. Statistical analysis is acceptable.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS: None

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.