Reviewer's report

Title: Etoricoxib - Preemptive and Postoperative Analgesia (EPPA) in Patients with laparotomy or thoracotomy - Design and Protocols

Version: 1 Date: 20 April 2010

Reviewer: lawrence friedman

Reviewer's report:

I have reviewed this manuscript and have the following comments/questions that should be addressed:

a) The English is somewhat awkward, with occasional errors. The manuscript should be given to a native English speaker for editing. Pagination would also be helpful.

b) In places, particularly the Etoricoxib section under the Discussion, the material reads as though it comes directly from the pharmaceutical company. It is a bit too positive toward the drug.

c) The sample size paragraph needs to be clarified. The sentence, “The study was powered to detect a decrease from 30 to 55% in the proportion regressing …” is unclear. Also, the reason from selecting 30% and 55% should be specified, as should the rationale for the selected “drop-out ratio 0.1.”

d) The primary outcome will be at 48 hours. What will be assessed at 6 months, and why?

e) What adverse events will be monitored?

f) The investigators might consider alternatives to using numbered envelopes for treatment assignment, as they are not foolproof.