Reviewer's report

Title: Utility of the sore throat pain model in the multiple-dose assessment of an acute analgesic: a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study of flurbiprofen 8.75 mg lozenges

Version: 2
Date: 2 December 2013
Reviewer: Xavier Nuñez

Reviewer's report:

Comment #1
Discretionary Revision – Should the ANOVA model used for efficacy be shown as an Appendix?

Comment #2
Major Compulsory Revision – page 9 – could you please explain how the following statistical assumption with regards to the ‘relevant baseline included as a covariate’ was assessed: “If a patient used rescue medication for pain, all subsequent STPIS, DSS, and SwoTS scores in the 24-hour interval were assigned the baseline value”. What baseline was then assigned to subjects with no rescue medication?

Comment #3
Minor Essential Revisions – page 9 – could you please explain rationale for imputation of missing data using the nominal time since first dose?

Comment #4
Minor Essential Revisions – page 9 – consider rewording the following, it is difficult to understand that logistic regression applies to the question ‘20% change reduction (YES/NO)’: “The percentage of patients who reported at least minimal improvement (at least a 20% reduction) [25] in symptom severity from the first dose on the STPIS, DSS, or SwoTS was assessed and significance was calculated using logistic regression with fixed treatment and site effects.

Comment #5
Minor Essential Revisions – page 11 – where are results from ‘sore throat relief’ shown? I can’t find them on any tables or figures. Consider adding them as an Appendix too.

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 declare that I have no competing interests