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: 3
Date: 11 February 2014
Reviewer: Xavier Nuñez

Reviewer's report:

Response to Comment #1 (Discretionary Revision) – Should the ANOVA model used for efficacy be shown as an Appendix?
Thank you for adding the ANOVA model. No other comments here.

Response to Comment #2 (Major Compulsory Revision) – 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 STPI, 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?
Thank you for detailing the use of the BOCF in the Methods section. No other comments here.

Response to Comment #3 (Minor Essential Revisions) – Could you please explain rationale for imputation of missing data using the nominal time since first dose?
Thank you for detailing the missing data imputation in the Methods section. No other comments here.

Response to Comment #4 (Minor Essential Revisions) – Consider rewording the following, it is difficult to understand that logistic regression applies to the question ‘20% change reduction (YES/NO)’:
Thank you for rewording. No other comments here.

Response to Comment #5 (Minor Essential Revisions) – 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.
Thank you for the clarification. I had seen results on the text indeed, I meant to add the summary table or plot as an appendix. No other action requested from me anyway.

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.