Reviewer’s report

Title: How disease extent can be included in the endoscopic activity index of ulcerative colitis: The panMayo Score, a promising scoring system

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Reviewer: Bruce Yacyshyn

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The reviewed manuscript titled "How disease extent can be included in the endoscopic activity index of UC: the panMayo score, a promising scoring system" by Balint et al describes a new scoring system for UC using the standard and well accepted Mayo system with an additional score of disease extent added to the base Mayo scoring technique. This work is based upon a single center, prospective study based upon ECCO criteria and rated by the endoscopists doing the procedures. The severity was rated using panMayo, eMayo and UCEIS for each patient and compared. Biopsies and laboratory tests were also taken and submitted for assessment.

Comparison between indices was made in 104 outpatients of whom 33 mild, 30 moderate and 8 severe patients were identified.

Results were compared.

Comments-

The scoring of the severity in this paper seems to be done by the same physicians that did their procedures at the time the procedures were performed. This technique, if used, carries risk of additional bias if the symptoms of the UC are discussed with the patient before the study by the investigator. It was not clear that this was allowed by the protocol description provided. It would be best to tape the procedure in its entirety, stopping at each area of the colon used in the scoring system end then rating these areas by use of taped procedure technique by symptom blinded investigators. These persons could rate the disease while being blinded to symptom history. Also, rating of severity using a 45 point score is also difficult and complex. A seven point Likert Visual analogue scale is the most accurate for such measurements. It is hard to tell by the data provided that this added to the current techniques for endoscopic disease severity assessment.

Also, intra-observer variation should be described in the rating of disease severity. For example if 3 observers are used to assess the same procedure, the variance between these individuals should be measured and presented.

Methods used in this study for each scoring system should be provided in table format so the similarities and differences between each could be compared at the same time.

Several spelling errors and grammatical errors were found in the manuscript itself.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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