Reviewer’s report

Title: Cefuroxime, levofloxacin, esomeprazole, and bismuth as first-line Helicobacter pylori eradication therapy in patients allergic to penicillin

Version: 2 Date: 17 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Chao-Hung Kuo

Reviewer's report:

I appreciate the satisfying eradication results from this regimen. The data is promising but there are revisions and discussions that should be added in order to make your article more complete.

1. Many literatures have proved that the previous treatment experience would affect the eradication rate, probably related to secondary antibiotics resistance from previous treatment. Therefore, I suggest that in your table 1, baseline factors should include the treatment experience such as Tx-naïve or Tx-experienced. Also, this factor should be added into uni and multi variate analysis.

2. There's a minor misspelling of Rapid urease test in Page 8, line 10,

3. In your table 3, multi-variates analysis should be expressed in your table with p value. It's more important than uni-variate analysis.

4. In China, Bismuth-containing quadruple therapy (Bismuth, metronidazole, tetracyline and PPI) is widely used and generally recommended. Due to lack of control group in your study design, I suggest that you should compare your results with the real-world eradication data of the currently common regimen in your area. If your proposed regimen show higher eradication rate than the locally recommended regimen, your result would be more promising and more convincing. Local eradication data and local antibiotics resistance data is very important when it comes to H pylori treatment and therefore, you should add more local data in your discussion part.

5. Levofloxacin has been recommended and reserved as the 2nd line therapy by many guidelines. Could you please share your thoughts on the 2nd line therapy if the patients fail with this CLEB regimen. Your point of view will affect feasibility of CLEB regimen is real-world practice.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
**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?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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Acceptable

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