Reviewer's report

Title: Topical Clobetasol for the Treatment of Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis: Study Protocol for a Phase II Split-Body Randomized Placebo-Controlled Trial

Version: 5 Date: 8 June 2015

Reviewer: Caridad Pontes

Reviewer's report:

The author’s have addressed the observations pointed out in the previous revision in detail, but some issues remain:

1. The authors have provided a nice discussion on their views regarding the issues on potential unblinding of the treatment as related to corticosteroid induced blanching, reassuring that this well known pharmacological effect will not impair the blinding in their trial, but this relevant aspect of the study design has not been mentioned in the manuscript discussion.

2. The author's have modified the definition of the area to be treated to allow contralateral areas other than arms to be treated in the double blind design. This change however has not been fully implemented in the manuscript:
   a. in sample size and statistical considerations “… the difference in days to cessation of skin detachment between right and left arms”;
   b. in 5th paragraph of discussion: “First, the area of application will be small and limited to the patient’s arms totalling…”.

3. Written informed consent from representatives has been described for children older than 12 and adults unable to consent. However, assent from children older than 12 should also be considered, according to article 29 of the Declaration of Helsinki.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no conflicts of interest according to those described above.