Reviewer's report

Title: Montelukast in the treatment of duodenal eosinophilia in children with dyspepsia: Effect on eosinophil density and activation in relation to pharmacokinetics

Version: 1 Date: 27 January 2009

Reviewer: Stephen Attwood

Reviewer's report:

This study is well thought out and executed with a good protocol. The findings are within expectations based on previous reports of the clinical efficacy of Montelukast in diseases of excess esinophilic inflammation without demonstrable changes in Eosinophil density or eosinophilic granulation activation.

The authors correctly identify (discussion page 16) that the methods of activation of eosinophils and their degranulation are complex and the tests employed in this study may be insensitive to detect a real effect.


Suggested minor essential revisions

Abstract line 4: Please define patients as “Twenty four dyspeptic patients…”

In the previous study they found elimination half life of montelukast to be 1.8 hours. The used a dose of 10mg once daily in the current study. Would it be worthwhile dosing the patients b.d (5mg b d) in order to maintain a more continuous therapeutic effect? This might also have a more measurable effect on eosinophil function or activation. Please comment

Methods Subjects paragraph 2 last line: 20 cell/hpf. Define hpf ( I assume = high power field) and state the surface area that your pathologist considers is a high power field. There is much variation in the size of high power fields and a description of the precise surface are in square millimeters is required.

Discretionary revisions

Background paragraph 2 line 2 consider stating “..we found duodenal mucosal eosinophilia in 71%.....”
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.