Point-by-point response to the editor:

q1: Regarding the statistical statement:

As mentioned by the editor, we described the statistical statement and provided it in PDF format.

Added sentence
Revised (Page 4 Line 2):

Biostatistics statement: The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Ryuta Takenaka from Tsuyama Chuo Hospital.

Revised (Page 10 Line 19):

The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Ryuta Takenaka from Tsuyama Chuo Hospital.

q2: Regarding the files about the statement:

As suggested by the editor, I provided them in a PDF format.

q3: Regarding the COMMENTS:

As suggested by the editor, I wrote the COMMENTS section.

Inserted sentence
Revised (Page 14 Line 9):

COMMENTS

Background

Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) are considered to be more cost-effective for patients with GERD than first-generation histamine receptor-2 antagonists (H2RAs). Lafutidine is a second-generation H2RA that has a potent and sustained anti-acid secretory effect. In LAFORE trials conducted in Japanese patients with mild GERD, lafutidine was superior to first-generation H2RA (famotidine). The aim of this study was to compare the clinical efficacy of lafutidine with that of PPI (lansoprazole) as initial and maintenance treatment in Japanese patients with mild GERD.

Research frontiers

GERD is a chronic disorder and long-term acid-suppression therapy is necessary in most cases. Limitations of PPIs include a higher cost than H2RAs, and potential side effects related to hypochlorhydria and hypergastrinemia.

Innovations and breakthroughs

Lansoprazole was superior to lafutidine in Japanese patients with mild GERD, not only with respect to lowering the severity of heartburn, but also the satisfaction score. The hypothesis that lafutidine had similar efficacy and superior cost-effectiveness compared with lansoprazole in Japanese patients with mild GERD was not confirmed.

Applications

The efficacy of a second-generation H2RA over a PPI in Japanese patients with mild GERD was not demonstrated, most notably during maintenance therapy.

Terminology

Lafutidine is a second-generation H2RA and shown to be superior to first-generation H2RA (famotidine).

Peer-review

q4: Regarding the references

As the editor pointed out, we corrected the PubMed citation numbers, DOI citation and the list of authors.

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