On "Pathogenesis and Management of Postoperative Ileus" (*Clin Colon Rectal Surg* 2009;22:47–50)

I read with great interest the article in your Volume 22 issue by Carroll and Alavi regarding the pathogenesis and management of postoperative ileus (POI).¹ Alvimopan was reviewed by the authors and concluded to show "promise in reducing POI, but needs more rigorous investigation."

Alvimopan has been extensively evaluated for the management of gastrointestinal (GI) recovery (POI) in five large, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 clinical trials (>3,000 patients). The results from these clinical trials have all been published in peer-reviewed journals.^{2–6} Furthermore, alvimopan was ultimately approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2008 to accelerate the time to upper and lower GI recovery following partial large or small bowel resection surgery with primary anastomosis.⁷

Although the information presented in the article is accurate, it is also incomplete. This additional information, which was not referenced in the original article, may help provide perspective to the reader about the current state of development of alvimopan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this interesting paper by Carroll and Alavi.

DISCLOSURE

Lee M. Techner, D.P.M. is the Vice President of Medical Affairs and a Medical Director at Adolor Corporation, the company that developed and is co-marketing Entereg[®] (alvimopan).

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Urology and Gynecology; Guest Editor, David E. Beck, M.D.

Clin Colon Rectal Surg 2010;23:128. Copyright © 2010 by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc., 333 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001, USA. Tel: +1(212) 584-4662.
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1055/s-0030-1254301>.
ISSN 1531-0043.