Reviewer's report

Title: Incidence of Atrial Fibrillation in Patients with either Heart Failure or Acute Myocardial Infarction and Left Ventricular Dysfunction: A Cohort Study

Version: 3 Date: 22 February 2011

Reviewer: Chris Arden

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions;

1) Background (p2) - need to clarify is symptomatic HF, as otherwise reader may see LVSD as synonymous as HF and not be able to distinguish between the two

2) Conclusion (p2) - Rx significantly reduced risk of developing AF 'only in the HF group' compared with placebo

3) Background (p3) - last para 'group of interest to benefit from...

4) p4 (3rd para) - diagnosis of AF left 'to' the discretion

5) p8 (top) - need to re-phrase '..of AF in patients, who cannot die' does not make sense

6) p8 (3rd para) - useful to acknowledge that diagnosis of AF is probably underestimated by not using ARM (ambulatory rhythm monitoring) as part of the study, but would probably use alternative to (or omit) 'punctiliously'

7) p9 (para 5) - to identify patients 'at' high risk of developing AF

8) p10 'Reduction of the AF burden has not been shown to improve survival in AF patients' am not sure this makes sense, what is the AF burden? if risk factors are actively managed, stroke risk reduced then mortality, admissions and morbidity will improve

9) p10 (1st para) - patients' who have had a myocardial infarction'

10) p10 (2nd para) - paroxystic should read 'paroxysmal'

11) p10 (2nd para) - when 'managing' not handling...patients with LVSD

12) p10 (2nd para) - was this really an assessment of a rhythm control strategy as patients were in SR when started on active Rx at the beginning of the trial, and had no prior Hx of AF, there is no evidence to support the statement that Dofetilide was more effective at converting patients in AF to SR, or maintaining them in SR once cardioverted?

13) Conclusion - incidence of AF 'at' 42 months in patients with 'symptomatic' HF

14) does this particular study really show that Dofetilide is indicated for restoring SR?

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.