Reviewer's report

Title: Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials on Magnesium in Addition to Beta-Blocker for Prevention of Postoperative Atrial Arrhythmias after Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting

Version: 2 Date: 27 November 2012

Reviewer: Richard Cook

Reviewer's report:

This meta analysis answers a very specific, but important question - that is, does addition of magnesium to beta blockers reduce the incidence of atrial arrhythmias.

There are two issues which need to be addressed:
1. The grammar needs to be reviewed and corrected.
2. The conclusion that Mg is associated with greater adverse events is not defended well enough by the manuscript to be justified. There is not enough discussion of what those adverse events were, and what the theoretical basis is for those adverse events. Since only 3 studies were used to come to this conclusion, it is perhaps too strong a statement to conclude that Mg in addition to beta blockers induces more adverse events. It would be more appropriate to say that there you observed an association with more adverse events in those pts who received Mg.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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