Reviewer’s report

Title: Spinal Cord Stimulation in the Treatment of Refractory Angina: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomised Controlled Trials

Version: 1 Date: 5 October 2008

Reviewer: Christopher J Winfree

Reviewer’s report:

This report represents an excellent review and meta-analysis of the up to date literature on the use of spinal cord stimulation for the treatment of chronic angina. The focus of the manuscript is presenting the available clinical data gleaned from clinical trials. Little emphasis is placed upon mechanisms of action or advocation for the use of this treatment modality, but a call for further studies is made to address cost effectiveness and to obtain high quality RCT data. These are not limitations of this report. This report is focused, and achieves the stated goal of their review and meta-analysis.

Minor Essential Revisions

1) Spelling, Abstract, Methods section, line 2, "Library".
2) Remove commas from second sentence in Introduction.
3) Spelling, Limitations section, sentence 2, "difficulty".
4) Awkward sentence, second paragraph, first sentence, "Clinical and Future Research Implications" section

Discretionary Revisions

Regarding the figures, it might be helpful to add to Table 1 Summary of included RCT characteristics, a column stating the level of evidence in each trial. It would be useful for the readers to see if the referenced trials are Class 1, 2, etc.

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