Reviewer's report

Title: Tranexamic acid for patients with traumatic brain injury: a randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial.

Version: 2 Date: 21 April 2013

Reviewer: Robert Hoesch

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-designed randomized, blinded study that examines the safety and efficacy of tranexamic acid (TXA) in the prevention of hemorrhagic expansion in patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI). While the study design and statistical methods are sound, the results did not reach statistical significance. One major exclusion which likely decreased the power of the study was the exclusion of all patients with coagulopathy. It is possible that the most profound effects of TXA in preventing hemorrhagic expansion would be in coagulopathic patients and the others mention this tangentially in the discussion.

Major Revisions

1. It is important to state that the results did not reach statistical significance in the abstract, results, and discussion because currently the text is misleading. The authors state that no solid conclusions can be reached, but never acknowledge statistical insignificance, except to state the 95% confidence interval. The lack of statistical significance is not a barrier to publication because, as the authors state, these results can be combined into future reviews and meta-analyses. Not stating the lack of significance plainly is a barrier to publication.

Minor Revisions

1. The paper needs fairly extensive editorial work on spelling, verb tense, etc. The discussion is at some points difficult to follow.

2. More focus should be placed on the safety of TXA. The lack of significant difference between treatment and placebo with respect to thromboembolism is an important finding.

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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests