Reviewer's report

Title: Meta-regression models to address heterogeneity and inconsistency in network meta-analysis of survival outcomes

Version: 4 Date: 7 August 2012

Reviewer: Ralf Bender

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Major Compulsory Revisions

The paper has been considerably improved and the authors replied adequately to all my comments with the following exception.

Although the example has been improved it is still not suitable to show the advantages of the new models. There are only minor differences in the goodness-of-fit between the random effects models and heterogeneity is only slightly reduced when the covariate is taken into account.

I recommend adding another example in which the covariate has a stronger impact. If the authors do not have a good real data example, artificial data could be used.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.