Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical cost-effectiveness analysis: a method for comparing competing interventions in the absence of randomized trials

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Reviewer: Slobodan Jankovic

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is an innovative implementation of pharmacoeconomy concepts of cost/effectiveness to clinical situation, where adverse effects of a treatment are more important than costs. Compared to previous developments of this idea, this manuscript gives a new solution how to compare multiple treatment options simultaneously. The research question posed by the authors is well defined, methodology is appropriate, and data are sound. The data are presented clearly. The manuscript is written with good style, results are discussed in sufficient detail, but without speculations, and with clearly stated limitations. The title is appropriate to the content and main idea.

- Major Compulsory Revisions
No major revisions are necessary.

- Minor Essential Revisions
The authors should add some important details to their illustrative example: first, they should state the time horizon used for clinical cost effectiveness analysis (CCEA) of anticoagulants in prophylaxis of thromboembolic events after hip replacement (is it only during 5 weeks of prophylaxis or 3 months, or longer); second, they should add a sentence in the same section stating “that results of this CCEA could be different if complete adverse effects spectrum of the compared drugs was taken into account as clinical cost.”. Besides, I am not sure what is compulsory structure of an article for this journal, but it looks to me logic to change subtitle “An illustrative example” to “Results”.

- Discretionary Revisions
No discretionary revisions are necessary.

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.