Reviewer's report

Title: Systematic review of methods for individual patient data meta analysis with binary outcomes

Version: 4 Date: 22 May 2014

Reviewer: David Fisher

Reviewer's report:

The authors have taken on board the majority of the reviewers' comments and the manuscript is much improved.

Minor essential revisions:

- Methods section: PUBMUD should be PUBMED

- Penalized quasi-likelihood is referred to in the Discussion as PQL, therefore this abbreviation should be introduced in the Statistical Methods subsection of Results.

(I might also suggest adding suitable references for PQL and/or Gaussian quadrature as a discretionary revision)

Discretionary revision:

- In the light of the paper of Kontopantelis et al (PLoS ONE 2013; 8(7): e69930) concerning unobserved/undetected heterogeneity in Cochrane MAs, it might be interesting to present the number of MAs reporting zero heterogeneity and compare this with the results in the PLoS ONE paper.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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