Reviewer's report

Title: A simplified search strategy for identifying randomised controlled trials for systematic reviews of health care interventions: a comparison with more exhaustive strategies.

Version: 2 Date: 8 June 2005

Reviewer: Steve McDonald

Reviewer's report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

A few minor typos to correct:
- p.3 para 4 - 2nd sentence is missing a full-stop
- p.4 Results para 1 - delete ')' at the end of the paragraph
- p.7 last para - RCTs not RCTS

A couple of style points:
- p.4 Results para 2 - 'the inclusion criteria' rather than 'their inclusion criteria'
- p.5 para beginning 'Only one review..' suggest you say 'Only one review did not include a meta-analysis. The nine remaining reviews included a total...'

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests