Reviewer's report

Title: Oral vitamin B12 for patients suspected of subtle cobalamin deficiency: a multicenter pragmatic randomized controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 10 August 2010

Reviewer: Eleanor Pullenayegum

Reviewer's report:

The revised manuscript reads clearly. I have no major comments but offer a few minor points below:

Minor essential revisions:

Abstract, Results: In addition to giving the mean decrease at 95% CI in MMA levels in the intervention group, it is important to give this in the control group as well, for comparison.

Results, middle of page 10: It's not clear whether the seven patients who had cobalamin levels below the threshold at 1 month were excluded from all analysis, excluded from 4-month analysis, or retained for all analyses. Intention to treat analysis would require them to be retained for all analyses.

Table 3: Was the heteroscedasticity accounted for in calculating the p-values and 95% CIs in Table 3? Linear regression assumes homoscedasticity, and the standard errors, p-values and confidence intervals rely on this assumption. If there is heteroscedasticity, this can be accounted for by using robust standard errors, or through a non-parametric bootstrap.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests