Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 23 November 2010

Reviewer: William L Stone

Reviewer’s report:

This is a detailed report on the efficacy of oral vitamin B12 supplementation in patients with suspected “subtle” cobalamin deficiency. B12 deficiency is a common cause of macrocytic anemia and has been implicated in a spectrum of neuropsychiatric disorders. The report is important since the true prevalence of vitamin B12 deficiency in the general population is unknown but thought to increase in the elderly.

Minor Compulsory Revisions (no major revisions and no discretionary revisions).

This is a detailed report on the efficacy of oral vitamin B12 supplementation in patients with suspected “subtle” cobalamin deficiency. B12 deficiency is a common cause of macrocytic anemia and has been implicated in a spectrum of neuropsychiatric disorders. The report is important since the true prevalence of vitamin B12 deficiency in the general population is unknown but thought to increase in the elderly.

Abstract. The sentence “Adherence to treatment was verified by an electronic device” is vague. Please provide a descriptive name to the “device.” A sentence cannot begin with a number like “50.” Please change “50 patients…” to something like “A total of 50 patients..” Similarly change “13 general practices..” to “Thirteen general practices…”

The sentence “The number needed to treat to detect a metabolic response at one month was 2.6” is not clear. What is “2.6”- does this have units? Please clarify.

Page 4- “a 4-month” should be replaced with a “four month.” All whole numbers less than ten should be spelled out (see http://www.dailywritingtips.com/10-rules-for-writing-numbers-and-numerals/) .

Page 6- Provide a descriptive name for the “electronic device.”

Page 6- Was “serum MMA” levels measured (as in the text) or “plasma MMA” (as in Table 2)?

Page 8- “et al” should “et al.” (al.is an abbreviation for the latin alii).

Results: Almost all the references to the Tables are incorrect, e.g., the reference to “Table 2” should be to “Table 1”, etc. Please check all the text.
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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