**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Short versus standard treatment with Pegylated interferon alfa-2a plus ribavirin in patients with hepatitis C virus genotype 2 or 3: the CLEO trial.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 24 November 2009

**Reviewer:** John H Kalbfleisch

**Reviewer's report:**

Major Compulsory Revisions
(1) The abstract indicates this comparison (86% vs 77%) is statistically significant (p < 0.05), however, the simple 2x2 Chi-square analysis yields P > 0.10 (not significant).

Minor Essential revisions
(2) Table 2 needs a footnote. “Values are N(%) unless N = 0.”

(3) Figure 2 is difficult to read. The authors should consider a 2-D figure and changing the font to something that displays clear readable characters in the labels of axes and figure body.

(4) Page 9. Logistic regression analysis. The results are clearly stated (but not supported by table information or figure displays). The statistical model to assess covariate effects seems to be a “main-effect-only” model. The authors need to comment (in methods or discussion) as to the appropriateness of the main-effect-only model choice (which is the basis of the multiple logistic regression analysis). In particular, were interaction effects among covariates analyzed or simply ignored? The authors can consider analyzing only the interaction effects among 4 SVR-covariates listed on page 9. Some readers will find a table or figure that elaborates on the covariate-odds-ratios a valuable addition in results.

Additionally, the authors should indicate (in methods) which of the study participant cases were used (all 210 as one group, or was study group used as a factor in the logistic regression?).

Discretionary Revisions
(5) Page 7, top line. “alfa” should be “alpha”.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests. John H. Kalbfleisch