Reviewer's report

Title: Meta-analysis of Percutaneous Radiofrequency Ablation versus Ethanol Injection in Hepatocellular Carcinoma.

Version: 1 Date: 2 February 2009

Reviewer: Guy J Maddern

Reviewer's report:

Limited data available.
Good effort to compile and analyse the data.
The quality of the studies included was a bit difficult to gauge, most included patients who appear suitable for a liver resection/trasplant (74% Childs A, 57% solitary, mean size 2.5cm).
Perhaps the autors can clarify why these were irresectable.
The studies included are very expectedly heterogenous, but RFA results appear unquestionably better.
Reproducible
Well written - should use more headings and subheadings especially in results category eg. A) Safety
i) Complications
B) Use of resources
i) Hospital stay
ii) No. of sessions
iii) Cost etc.
Need statistics
Review to confirm results

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests