Reviewer's report

Title: The effect of homocysteine-lowering with B-vitamins on osteoporotic fractures in patients with cerebrovascular disease: substudy of VITATOPS, a randomised placebo-controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 28 March 2013

Reviewer: Gaurav Garg

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

Comment 1:
Why have the authors not mentioned the protocol of sample collection, isolation of plasma/Serum and total homocysteine measurement in methodology section? What kind of sample they have used for homocysteine measurement (plasma or serum) please clarify? The authors have given two references (22 and 23) of earlier studies in the methods section but in those publications plasma was used to measure fasting homocysteine but in this manuscript they have used serum.

Comment 2:
The authors have not compared Vitamin B-complex levels (i.e Vitamin B12, folic acid, Vitamin B6) with homocysteine levels between baseline and follow-up visit. These micronutrients are well established cofactors in methionine cycle, which have high potential to modulate homocysteine levels. Many other factors, including genetic factors, might be causing problems in absorption of vitamins, leading to vitamin deficiency constantly even after B-vitamin treatment which might be unable to modulate the level of homocysteine.

Comment 3:
The authors have not shown the significance level of total homocysteine between treated group and placebo during base line and final follow-up visit. My suggestion is the authors should check difference of homocysteine levels between osteoporotic fracture outcome and without fracture in both groups (B-Vitamins and Placebo) and the result must be shown in a different table. In table 3 the result of homocysteine comparison is missing.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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' below.