Reviewer’s report

Title: Peginterferon alpha based therapy for chronic hepatitis B focusing on HBsAg clearance or seroconversion: a meta-analysis of controlled clinical trials

Version: 2 Date: 26 April 2011

Reviewer: Melissa Osborn

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have done a commendable job addressing the issues raised in the initial review. They have addressed both a sensitivity analysis including only high-quality studies, and have included funnel plots to address publication bias, an issue also raised by the other reviewer. (However, in the discussion, they still raise the possibility of publication bias as a limitation of their analysis, which should be reworded or taken out, as this was addressed to the best of their ability). While they did not address my third point much in their discussion (what the meta-analysis adds to the literature), this does not detract from the paper and should not keep it from moving forward with publication.

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.