Reviewer's report

Title: Pretreatment with statins improves early outcome in patients with first-ever ischaemic stroke: a pleiotropic effect of statins or a beneficial effect of hypercholesterolemia?

Version: 2  Date: 8 June 2010

Reviewer: Daniel Bereczki

Reviewer's report:

I read the paper again, together with previous comments and responses.
I feel that the authors responded adequately to the major comments of Dr. Reeves, but not entirely to the suggested discretionary changes. Namely, the discussion is still too long on the possible mechanisms of the beneficial effects of statins, and still does not have a section on the limitations of the study.

My other comment is for Table 2 in the revised manuscript: it is not clear in most part of the table what are the numbers in parenthesis. I checked a few numbers assuming %, but the numbers did not work out. Please, ask the authors to define what are in parentheses, and also, please, check the numbers.