Reviewer's report

Title: Phenytoin versus Leviteracetam for Seizure Prophylaxis after Brain Injury - A Meta Analysis

Version: 1 Date: 19 March 2012

Reviewer: Carolyn Benson

Reviewer's report:

Overall, good review of a topic that has not been well studied.

Discretionary Revisions

Abstract:

In the background section, is it really fair to say that LEV is becoming the treatment of choice? It remains second line at my centre.

Overall:

The review would flow better if methods came before results.

Why was data on sex collected and presented? Have previous studies demonstrated differing efficacy in male vs female for either drug? If so, would be useful to include.

In table 1, there is significant variation in drug doses for both PHY and LEV. I think there should be a comment on this in the discussion.

Needs to be carefully checked for grammatical errors.

Discussion:

Paragraph 1, Line 3: “despite paucity of evidence in its support” – is this a fair statement? Is there not good evidence for early seizure prophylaxis in TBI?

Paragraph 3: In paragraph 2, you state a percentage of patients that discontinue PHY due to side effects. Is there a similar statistic available for LEV?

Paragraph 3: while the high cost of LEV does make its use in developing countries difficult, this problem is not limited to developing countries. Upon discharge from hospital, limited drug plans make it difficult in developed countries as well.

Paragraph 5: Could you provide more details on the variation in the early seizure time frame?

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