Reviewer's report

Title: Endovascular coiling versus neurosurgical clipping in patients with unruptured intracranial aneurysm: a systematic review

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Reviewer: Joachim Oertel

Reviewer's report:

In this manuscript, a huge number of studies dealing with the treatment of non-ruptured aneurysms is analyzed. The authors included studies with very small numbers, in many studies the follow up ends with patients’ discharge. In all, the authors compare the in-hospital morbidity and mortality of patients who underwent aneurysm clipping with the in-hospital morbidity and mortality of patients who were subjected to aneurysm coiling. The question is well defined by the authors. The paper is well written. However, I have major concerns about the scientific value. The most important endpoint of any aneurysm treatment is the successful occlusion of the aneurysm and the long term results of the treatment. Both criteria are not addressed! I do not see any value in the comparison of a group of patients who underwent craniotomy with a group of patients who did not when only the in-hospital stay is evaluated! Everybody expects that patients’ who underwent open surgery have a higher in-hospital risk than patients who did not undergo craniotomy.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have nothing to disclose. I declare that I have no competing interests.