Reviewer's report

Title: No sex-specific difference in disease trajectory in multiple sclerosis patients of pre- and post-menopausal ages.

Version: 1 Date: 7 December 2012

Reviewer: jacqueline bernard

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This is an important question, and thus needs to be more completely studied and defined.

This paper has four major limitations:
1. No clear definition of menopause (see J Clin Endocrinol Metab;April 2012,97(4):1159-1168 for typical definitions).
2. The two groups C1 and C2 seem arbitrary (i.e. 38-46 and 54-62, because mean age in Western societies is 49-52)
3. Duration of study of two years is too short to comment on disease course around a hormonal event that typically has a duration of more than one year
4. Patient reported outcomes (PROs) are by definition non-objective and therefore should not be used as objective evidence in primary analysis. Perimenopausal women did report lower physical functioning than men (p=0.002), so that could be looked at in a quality of life study, for example.

Minor revisions: BPF might be better evaluated on DTI

Other medical conditions and co-morbidities were not discussed i.e: osteoporosis, OCP use, HRT use etc.

At least one non-sequitur sentence....."the age at symptom onset was greater with increasing age..."

Overall, very important topic that could be made into a more powerful and convincing article with the above revisions. Would be worth the time and effort.

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