Reviewer's report

Title: Focal subarachnoid haemorrhage mimicking transient ischaemic attack - do we really need MRI in acute stage?

Version: 2
Date: 15 February 2014
Reviewer: David Werring

Reviewer's report:

The authors have improved the manuscript.

An important point that needs to be clearly mentioned in the final article is that frequently patients present with a history of transient focal neurological episodes some time previously (e.g. not within 48 hours of the event), or have an acute event but have a history of previous attacks in the past. In these situations CT will not be helpful in ruling out previous subarachnoid bleeding and an MRI with blood-sensitive sequences (T2* or SWI) is essential. A CT should thus not be considered sufficient to investigate transient neurological episodes and cannot be used to guide antithrombotic use on its own. It is understood that MRI is not widely available 24/7, but this should be the standard that we are aiming for, rather than accepting the limitations of current services. These points need to be clearly acknowledged in the final article.

Thanks for the careful and thorough revisions.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.