Reviewer's report

Title: Valproic acid is associated with cognitive decline in HIV-infected individuals: a clinical observational study.

Version: 2 Date: 12 September 2006

Reviewer: robert bornstein

Reviewer's report:

General

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. The primary concern regarding this manuscript is the lack of consideration of the performance of the two groups at baseline. Although the VPA group may decline more, it may be related to the initial level of deficit. The manuscript notes that the VPA group had a higher incidence of HIV neurologic complications, so it would not be at all surprising if they had greater deficit at baseline. That being the case they might also be at higher risk for cognitive decline that has no relation at all to treatment with VPA

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No