Reviewer's report

Title: omega-3 Fatty Acids are protective against Paclitaxel-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy: A Randomized double-blind placebo controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 18 May 2012

Reviewer: william S harris

Reviewer's report:

This paper reports the results of a study examining the potential protective effects of n3 FAs on the development of peripheral neuropathy in women being treated paclitaxel for breast cancer. The paper was very difficult to follow since it was not organized like a typical report: no abstract, results presented before methods (so the results made no sense), and the proper statistical testing was not performed. In a DB, PC, RCT the change in endpoint X in the active group is compared to the change in that endpoint in the placebo group; within group changes are irrelevant and should not be presented, nor should conclusions be drawn from them. The flow chart say that plasma PL FA composition was tested but this does not seem to be in the methods or the results, nor were changes in endpoints based on changes in plasma DHA levels computed.

P7. It says that the "obtained results" were well correlated with other scales, but no data is shown on this point.

P13. The study is said to have been designed with 80% power but we are not told the basis for this: what is the primary endpoint, the effect size targeted, the variances expected?

Table 1 needs statistical evaluation (again, between group differences, not within group). The data in tables 2 and 3 are fine to present, but no statistical evaluation should be presented except for differences in the pre-post changes between groups.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests