Reviewer's report

**Title:** The effectiveness of reducing the daily dose of finasteride in men with benign prostatic hyperplasia

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**Reviewer:** Dr Teuvo Tammela

**Level of interest:** A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

**Advice on publication:** Accept after discretionary revisions

1. This is a nice small paper demonstrating efficacy of 2.5 mg a day of finasteride as maintenance therapy in patients with BPH. The findings are in accordance with previous data on the efficacy of finasteride with lower doses than 5 mg daily (see e.g. reference 3) and have a significant health economical impact as costs of the treatment can be reduced by 50 %. The best way to conduct this kind of study would have been to use of placebo and double-blind randomization. However, scientifically the study is done correctly as the patients have worked as their own controls and the number of patients is large enough to make it possible to draw the conclusions.

2. The main concern is the slightly higher PSA level with the daily dose of 2.5 mg of finasteride. It may be possible that there will, however, occur some regrowth of the prostate in a long-term. This should be added to Discussion. Also it is necessary to discuss on the importance to select correctly the patients for finasteride treatment and to discuss what is the right timing for dose reduction (what previous reports tell about this, why the investigators chose one year?).

**Competing interests:**

None declared.