Reviewer’s report

Title: Why do Black People Respond Better to Calcium Blockers and Diuretics than to ACE Inhibitors and beta-Adrenergic Blockers? A Systematic Review

Version: 1 Date: 5 December 2012

Reviewer: Keith C Ferdinand

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Major compulsory revisions: 1. Clearly define operational definitions or terms. The title should reflect these definitions. For instance, there are no "black people", consider black patients, or sub-Saharan blacks or persons of African descent, and for major papers clarify in U.S. or African Americans or South Amer. or Africans. Lumpinmg all studies as blacks is problematic.
2. Clarify that race is usually used for blacks (FDA) although Johnson paper Circulation 2008 uses ethnicity-each cited paper may use different terms?
3. The significant limitation of these demographic terms should be highlighted
4. Black "people" should be avoided as a term
5. Clarify grams sodium in "salt" discussion vs. low salt, high salt, etc.
6. Simplify discussion of genetics that have no significant finding of significance to focus and streamline the text

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests