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

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Reviewer: Ferrán Catalá López

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this report entitled “Why do Black People Respond Better to Calcium Blockers and Diuretics than to ACE Inhibitors and beta-Adrenergic Blockers? A Systematic Review”.

This is timely and well written review and the topic is of clinical importance in its field. The authors conclude, however, that “available data are inconclusive regarding why black patients display the typical response to antihypertensive drugs. In lieu of biochemical or pharmacogenomic parameters, self-defined black ethnicity seems the best available predictor of individual responses to antihypertensive drugs”.

When reading the title and the introduction I had the feeling the authors were seeking to answer the question above on clinical grounds, but from the description of the results I understood that their aim was much more exploratory and non-clinical in nature (PK/PD variations, pharmacogenetics), though, that keeps confusing me. Could you please revise?

Methods: - Basically give more details of the search strategy, selection/inclusion criteria, databases servers, description of 71 reports (quality was assessed?) etc in the main text and/or incorporating a webappendix (please check PRISMA items). I would also suggest to give reason why complementary databases were not covered for unpublished reports/information (e.g. US FDA, European Medicines Agency)

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 have no competing interests.