Reviewer's report

Title: Association of Trial Registration with the Results and Conclusions of Published Trials of New Oncology Drugs

Version: 1 Date: 29 October 2009

Reviewer: Joel Lexchin

Reviewer's report:

This paper compares clinical trials that were registered with those that were not to see if registration affects biases in the reporting of results. In general I found this to be a well written paper that employed appropriate methodology. I have relatively few comments to offer.

Minor essential revisions

Page 9, first paragraph:
How was "most emphasized" operationalized, e.g., by a word count?

Page 14, second paragraph:
The authors should also note that they only looked for differences in reported efficacy and not in reported safety issues.

Page 14, Conclusions:
I would like to see a more fulsome discussion of new policy options that flow from the authors' findings.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I acted as a consultant to a generic company giving advice about the relationship between promotion and sales. I have been a consultant to the Canadian federal government in its defence of a law suit launched against the ban on direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs.