Reviewer's report

Title: Early postoperative cognitive dysfunction and postoperative delirium after anaesthesia with various hypnotics: a double blind, prospective, randomized, controlled clinical trial - The PINOCCHIO trial -

Version: 3 Date: 22 September 2010

Reviewer: Charles Goldsmith

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1. P(age) 2, Last line. Replace [Southner] by [Southern].
2. P 4, p(aragaph) 2, l(ine) 1. Replace [incidence] by [rate]. Incidence is the rate of conversion from not having an event to having an event over a specified time interval. Since time is not specified here, it is better to use rate. Also P 5, p 3, l 3; P 9, p 1, l 3; P 11; p 1, l 2; P 18, p 2, l 10,11; P 20, p 2, l 3.
3. The authors should consider adding an appendix of all the short forms used in the manuscript. Some may be strange to the readers of Trials.
4. P 11, p 2, l 3. What factors and levels are used for stratification? Or does this refer to blocking?
5. P 11, p 3, l 2. Does GCS have to be exactly 15 or is it <, or is it >?
6. P 12, p 3, l 8. Replace [range] by [interval]. A range is a single number and is the length of an interval. Also P 13, p 1, l 3.
7. P 14, p 2, l 2. Replace [time-points] by [times]. Time is always a point.
9. P 15, p 2. The sample size does not reflect the stratification or the the number of centers. Also, the authors should cite the on-line software used to compute the sample size. Presumably the allocation ratio is 1:1:1 and so should be stated here. The analysis of the data does not reflect what possible multiple comparisons will be done, and what if any adjustment will be made for these multiple comparisons. The authors should also comment on the sample size for their proposed subgroups, as they will have less power than the overall study.
10. P 20, p 1, l 6. Insert a space after the inequality and before the [2].
11. The references were not checked for accuracy.
12. P 26, R(eference) 4. What is the overlap if any with this study and the one reported in R 4?