Reviewer's report

Title: The Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Multiple Sclerosis (MSCIMS) Trial protocol and baseline cohort characteristics: an open-label pre-test : post-test study with blinded outcome assessments.

Version: 1 Date: 7 February 2011

Reviewer: Letizia Mazzini

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

There is significant interest in developing cell based therapies for Multiple Sclerosis and MSCs are good candidate because their trophic properties and safety. Hence studies like this one are important to determine the best methodological approach to design brief very informative clinical trials.

I understand that the main objective of this manuscript is to describe the design of a phase IIA study of autologous mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) in secondary progressive MS. However this aim is not clearly stated in the text and some paragraphs are ambiguous:

The abstract focus the argument of the paper on “ tests the safety and feasibility of treatment with a candidate cell-based therapy”

Methods report that 10 patients had been treated with MSCs i.v. However no results are shown.

The proposed protocol seems very interesting but some evidence of its reliability to prove safety of the treatment should be provided.


Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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 that I have no competing interests'