Reviewer's report

Title: Flexible trial design in practice: stopping arms for lack-of-benefit and adding research arms mid-trial in STAMPEDE: a multi arm multi stage randomised controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 7 August 2012

Reviewer: Allan Donner

Reviewer's report:

The authors have satisfactorily responded to my comments, However I believe more detail is required in responding to comment #2 of the other reviewer, as this is an important methodological issue. Thus it should be indicated how the issue of subjects "counted twice" will be specifically dealt with, if only by conducting a sensitivity analysis.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'