Reviewer's report

Title: Intravenous magnesium prevents atrial fibrillation after coronary artery bypass surgery: a meta-analysis of 7 double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized clinical trials

Version: 2 Date: 17 November 2011

Reviewer: Colin Berry

Reviewer's report:

Major comments

The study addresses a common and troublesome complication of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery. Although I am not an expert in meta-analysis, the analysis seems well structured, appropriately conducted and described. English grammar could improve (comments below).

The authors should add more to the discussion about the clinical relevance of their results. Do their results support magnesium for treatment of post-operative AF (yes); how is magnesium given in clinical practice; how will their results help move clinical practice forward (change in clinical guidelines, physician preference to improve, etc).

Minor comments

Page 4, last line ~ "monitor" should change to "monitoring"

Page 4, What do the authors mean by "under-ten-patient studies" ie sample size with less than 10 patients?

The abbreviation 'CABGS' should change to 'CABG'

Page 10 - change 'We admitted that' to 'We accept that our meta-analysis included some clinical studies which had a modest sample size'

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

None