Reviewer's report

**Title:** A randomised controlled trial of eicosapentaenoic acid and/or aspirin for colorectal adenoma (or polyp) prevention during colonoscopic surveillance in the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme: The seAFOod (Systematic Evaluation of Aspirin and Fish Oil) Polyp Prevention Trial

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 18 March 2013

**Reviewer:** Mohandas Mallath

**Reviewer's report:**

1. **Major Compulsory Revisions**
   An important issue in the design is that patients at highest risk (of developing adenomas) may get excluded [those having repeat / relook colonoscopy]. There is a theoretical possibility that the overall effect size of the interventions (EPA, aspirin or both) will drop below their theoretical target of 18%. The authors have increased the sample size to account for the changes but have not lowered the effect size.

• **Minor Essential Revisions**
   There is no mention about quality assurance for the colonoscopy. It would be advisable to have some quality assurance measures to ensure that the adenoma detection rates are of high quality among the staff doing the colonoscopies.

• **After the study began the authors have found that the proportion of all subjects eligible for this trial dropped from their original estimate of 60% to 15-20% due to various reasons. This will be important if this is a positive trial and has to be taken to the community as only a subset of the general population will be eligible.**

• **Discretionary Revisions**
   Over all the study is well design to test an important hypothesis. Sufficient details have been provided to replicate the study. The planned statistical analys is appropriate. However if the highest risk patients are getting excluded the effect size may need to be recalculated.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 have no competing interests