Reviewer's report

Title: Nitrates and Bone Turnover [NABT]: trial to select the best nitrate preparation.

Version: 4 Date: 7 June 2013

Reviewer: Charlie Goldsmith

Reviewer's report:

The responses by the authors to the issues raised by the reviewers seem to be sensible. However, there are a variety of Trials format issues that are no handled well and should be fixed. Pages were numbered from 1 to 25.

1. P(age) 1, l(ine) 2, 3 and 4. Move the funding source and registration to the bottom of the page, provide the grant number, dates of registration and the date the first patient was randomized.
2. P 1, l 5. Delete [.] after [MSc].
3. P 1, l(tem)s 1, 2, 3, and 5 all seem to be the same place so should use the same address and include the city as [Toronto ON].
4. P 1, I 4, l 1. Include [CA] at the end of l. The address could be made more complete.
5. P 2, p(paragraph) 1, l 5. Replace [least] by [fewest]. Also P 3, p 6, l 2. Also P 9, p 5, l 11.
6. P 3, p 3, l 5. Replace [incidence] by [number]. Incidence is a time related measure that goes from none disease to disease over the time interval. Also P 3, p 2, l 7. Also P 7, p 7, l 7. Also P 9, p 5, l 9. Also P 10, p 4, l 16. Also P 16, p 1, l 6.
7. P 3, p 2, l 2 to 6. Provide a R(eference) for this claim.
9. P 4, p 5, l 2. Rewrite as [... data [> 5 years] are ...].
10. P 6, p 2, l 4 to 7. Explain this notation. If they are meant to be mean and standard deviations, state it and avoid the use of the +/- between them as [mean, sd = 25, 2%].
11. P 6, p 2, l 8. Replace [is] by [are].
13. P 6, p 6, l 1. Replace [average] by [mean].
15. P 7, p 1, l 1. Insert [risk] between [fracture] and [was].
16. P 7, p 2, l 1. Provide a R.
17. P 7, p 6, l 6 and 7. Make these rates rather than counts.
18. P 7, p 7, l 1. Delete [had study].
20. P 8, p 1, l 19 and 20. Delete […] and published … Association…].
22. P 8, p 3, l 11. Add a [.] at the end of the l.
23. P 9, p 1, l 4. Add a [.] at the end of the l.
26. P 10, p 5, l 2. Provide a R to the Block questionnaire.
27. P 11, p 4, l 1. Delete [in order] in front of [to] as the words are redundant in English. Also P 12, p 2, l 6.
29. P 12, p 1, l 4. Insert [it] between [as] and [is].
30. P 12, p 3, l 7. Replace [this] by [these].
31. P 12, p 4, l 5. Which markers and provide Rs.
32. P 13, p 1, l 1. Insert location.
33. P 13, p 2, l 2. Provide a R to the Helsinki declaration.
34. P 13, p 5. What software was used to compute the sample size?
35. P 14, p 2, l 2. Replace [parameters] by [variables].
36. P 14, p 3. Have these people agreed to be listed in the paper. You have not included them as authors. Are they paid consultants?
37. P 14, p 5, l 4. Rewrite as [> 15%].
38. P 15, p 1, l 11. Replace [50] by [100].
39. P 15, p 2. Was stratification by centre considered?
40. P 15, p 3, l 7. Insert [is] between [arrangement] and [similar].
41. P 15, p 3, l 2. Rewrite as [trials. 2]].
42. P 15, p 3, l 3. Insert a space between [turnover] and [and].
43. P 15, p 4. Should this p be rewritten to include these people as authors and NOT co-applications?
44. P 15, p 5, l 1. Delete one [.]. Also replace [significant] by [clinically important].
45. P 15, p 6, l 1. Insert [the] between [as] and [population].
46. P 15, p 6, l 7. Delete [s] to read [suggest].
47. P 16, after p 4. Insert a list of all short forms about here.
48. P 16, R 2 and 3, l 2. The author is [Badley], not [Bradley].
50. P 17, R 15. Trials likes to publish the first 30 authors before using et al. Also
51. P 18, R 26, I 2. Include the volume number.
52. P 21, R 63. Label as a PhD thesis.
53. P 21, R 69. Include the city and state of the publisher.