Reviewer's report

Title: Oral nitrates effect on pulse pressure and arterial elasticity in patients over 65 with refractory isolated systolic hypertension.

Version: 1 Date: 27 August 2013

Reviewer: ian IBW wilkinson

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes an ongoing trial looking at the effect of nitrates on pulse pressure in resistant hypertensives.

Major
1. The English needs to be improved eg page 7 'pretends to elevate'
2. How is resistant hypertension defined and why is there no directly observed therapy?
3. Page 5 paragraph 1 the discussion about why ISH has stiff vessels in confusing. I think what is meant is that it could be purely structural (elastin collagen calcium) or partly functional (increased SM tone perhaps because of endothelial dysfunction)
4. How is CBP being measured - supine or seated and calibrated to which pressures. Also I assume PWV is done supine. Is BP being remeasured supine to allow for supine MAP correction.
5. Are BP measures at trough or peak. This will be important as the nitrate is only give once a day and is short acting. This is also an issue for ABPM averaging.

Minor
1. Nitric oxide is usually abbreviated to NO and not ON
2. Overall the paper should be shortened and some of the discussion about regulation type issues could be cut dramatically.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

none