Reviewer’s report

Title: Pharmacologic prophylaxis for atrial fibrillation following cardiac surgery: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 22 August 2010

Reviewer: Kwok Ho

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review your work.

Major comments:
1. Multiple similar narrative reviews on this topic have been published. As such, the originality of this review is limited.
2. This is not a systematic review. It is more like a traditional narrative review, no search strategies, inclusion and exclusion criteria, well-defined end-points of interest, and study characteristics and validity (or bias) analyses.
3. Did the author try to assess atrial fibrillation after on-pump or off-pump surgery or both?
4. Critical analyses of the included studies are required. These may include the side effects such as proportion of patients requiring pacing after beta-blockers or amiodarone or sotalol and the end-points such as length of ICU and hospital stay.

Minor comments
The writing style of the manuscript can be significantly improved.

Level of interest: Reject as not of sufficient priority to merit publishing in this journal

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests in relation to the subject matter of this manuscript.