Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 7 September 2010

**Reviewer:** DIMITRIOS MIKROULIS

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Atrial Fibrillation is the most common arrhythmia occurring after cardiac surgery. Consequently, the effective treatment for the prevention of postoperative AF is of vital importance. Numerous pharmacologic strategies attempted to reduce the incidence of postoperative AF, however, no particular agent or combination of agent have completely eliminated post cardiac surgery AF. Therefore any review article about this issue is welcome.

Some remarks:

1. Page 6, line 1: "The incidence of postoperative AF was significantly lower in metoprolol group (39%) compared to placebo (31%), representing a relative risk reduction of 20%.
Do you mean: "The incidence of postoperative AF was significantly lower in metoprolol group (31%) compared to placebo (39%), representing a relative risk reduction of 20%.

2. Page 10, line 6: "In amiodarone group, the tow grams" Do you mean: "In amiodarone group, the two grams"

3. Page 12, line 1: "Notably, the risk of postoperative AF in patients receiving amiodarone and pacing was lower than the placebo/ no pacing and the placebo pacing /pacing groups (57.9% and 60.5% reductions, p= 0.047 and p= 0.040 respectively)." Please, explain better this phrase.

4. You could add three tables (one for b-blocker, one for sotalole and one for amodarone chapter) to summarize the results of the studies for each drug.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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'