Reviewer’s report

Title: Systematic review and stratified meta-analysis of the efficacy of RhoA and Rho kinase inhibitors in animal models of ischaemic stroke.

Version: 2 Date: 5 February 2013

Reviewer: Jens Minnerup

Reviewer’s report:

Meta-analysis is increasingly used to assess preclinical stroke studies. In their study the authors applied this technique to studies on RhoA and Rho kinase inhibitors in experimental stroke studies. Overall, 25 studies were included in the analysis. Treatment significantly improved the outcome (infarct volume reduction and functional outcome). However, the quality of the included studies was low and a publication bias was found which was associated with an overstatement of efficacy.

Overall, the topic is of interest and the study was very well designed and conducted.

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined? 
Yes.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work? 
Yes.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled? 
Yes.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? 
Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? 
Yes.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? 
Yes.

7. Is the writing acceptable? 
Yes.

I have no further comments.
Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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