Reviewer’s report

Title: The Effectiveness of Non Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Agents in the treatment of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease: A Systematic Review

Version: 2
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Reviewer: Lisbeth Nilas

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript tries to perform a Systematic review of the effectiveness of NSAID’s in the treatment of PID, complies with the Prisma Guidelines, and is altogether a methodologically well-performed systematic review.

The study outcome in clear: short and long-term clinical effectiveness of supplementary NSAID’s in women with PID. The literature retrieval is through and nicely described, and the search strategy is logical, appropriate and well –performed. The text is easily read, although the introduction seems is a bit long.

As only two minor low quality RCT’s from 1989 and 1991 with 49 and 52 participants, respectively, were identified, both with a follow-up of only 9-11 weeks, the lack of evidence precludes any conclusion about the possible adverse or beneficial effects of NSAID. The methodological issues are discussed appropriately and the findings interpreted professionally.

The main drawback of the Systematic review is the lack of appropriate literature. A systematic review can be very helpful when several studies find varying effects of an intervention. The impact and the relevance of Systemic reviews are limited when there are no relevant studies to review.

The theory that a host reaction has a central role in the development of adverse reproductive consequences of PID is interesting, but is only a theory. One could also argue that the host reaction has a central role in limiting spread of the disease and fear the NSAID’s could postpone cure. However, the experimental animal studies indicating reduced adhesions in traumatic lesions after NSAID treatment, justify interest in possible human effects of these drugs.

Overall, I find the review of limited interest, but it is not possible to suggest improvements, as the main limitation is the lack of literature.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 interest