Reviewer’s report

Title: Efficient Two-Step Multivariate Random Effects Meta-Analysis of Individual Participant Data for Longitudinal Clinical Trials Using Mixed Effects Models

Version: 0 Date: 13 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Paolo Eusebi

Reviewer's report:

The authors propose a two-step method for the meta-analysis of IPD using two step mixed effects models.

The paper is clear and well written.

Methods:

The text of the remarks should be shortened

I would suggest to make more clear in the methods what are the comparison made by each simulation experiment: "We conducted simulations to evaluate the efficiency of A vs. B under X circumstance".

What are the meaning of efficiency in the description of the first simulation experiment and validity in the second section? Please explain.

In the discussion there are sentences that repeat the content introduced in the background, please delete them.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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