Reviewer's report

Title: Protocol registration or development may benefit the reporting, design and conduct of dose-response meta-analysis: Empirical evidence from a literature survey

Version: 1 Date: 08 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Katharina Allers

Reviewer's report:

Although the authors have further strengthened the manuscript in response to the reviewers' comments, some issues remain

- Overall, you should clearly distinguish between a priori registration/protocol publication and developing a protocol. At least discuss that a supplemented protocol does not ensure that it was developed a priori and does not have the advantage of reducing duplication which would be given when a protocol is registered or published in advance. Moreover, I would suggest explaining shortly that this is the reason why you conducted the sensitivity analysis.

- Thank you for your explanation concerning my comment 2h) about the option "not applicable", but why not mentioning this in the manuscript?

- Also your comment to my question 3e) should be explained in the methods to be more transparent.

- Although I am not a native speaker, I think that the manuscript would benefit from further language editing.
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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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