Reviewers report

Title: Early Statin Use in Ischemic Stroke Patients Treated with Recanalization Therapy: Retrospective Observational Study

Version: 2 Date: 30 January 2015

Reviewer: Christine Kremer

Reviewers report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

This is an interesting work highlighting the importance of different drugs for secondary prevention of stroke in patients receiving recanalization therapy at the acute stage.

Here are my concerns:

Since recanalization itself is a very powerful predictor of outcome it might be not sufficient just adjusting for modality of recanalization. In table 4 the combined treatment has a significant trend for favorable outcome, this suggests that this might be anyway a potential confounder. The number of patients receiving statins at D1 is the same in the iv and in the combined group. In the combined group there were 50% non statin users compared to 17.6% in the iv group.

The observation period is very long, as the authors state, the rate of statins given in 2004 was 0% and the increasing to 35% in 2010. How was the development of recanalization therapies at the same time - per year? Did the outcome improve generally over this years?

Minor revision.

In the period after Mr Clean it is hard to state in the introduction that various therapies (what do the authors mean endovascular approach/ia?) did not show higher successful recanalization rates.

Some spelling mistakes.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.