Reviewer’s report

Title: Enteral vitamin A for reducing severity of bronchopulmonary dysplasia in extremely preterm infants: a randomised controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 28 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Roberta Keller

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The authors have responded adequately to previously-identified issues.

Minor Essential Revisions:

Please clarify if the power calculation is based on a two-tailed test of significance (Page 12, Line 1). Please clarify if randomization is blocked (Page 12, Lines 39-41).

Please clarify if all infants receive breast milk or some have formula diet, as this may affect Vitamin A intake. Also clarify if stated Vitamin A intake levels include routine multivitamin (or other) supplementation and if that supplementation is recommended as standard care or in the protocol (Page 14, Lines 15-17).

As this is a preliminary study designed to test physiological response to an intervention, the results should not be considered definitive toward a change in practice. I recommend that the final statement of the manuscript is modified to recognize that caveat. The final statement currently reads: "If our study shows that …water-soluble vitamin A is safe and effective for decreasing BPD…” However, the study is not designed to demonstrate a decrease in BPD. It is designed to assess a change in the primary outcome of the SPO2-PiO2 curve (which was studied only in infants requiring supplemental oxygen at or after 36 weeks' PMA, the broad definition for BPD).

Minor issues not for publication:

Page 4, line 59: Citation numbers were not included.
Page 20, line 29: I cannot find citation number 21 in Pubmed. Please clarify the source of this reference.

Page 22, line 34: I cannot find citation number 39 in Pubmed. Please clarify the source of this reference.

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.

No

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
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I have no competing interests to declare.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal