Reviewer’s report

Title: Benefits of starting hypothermia treatment within 6 hours vs. 6-12 hours in newborns with moderate neonatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy

Version: 0 Date: 23 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Domenico Romeo

Reviewer's report:

The paper entitled "Beginning hypothermia treatment within 6 and 12 hours in newborns with moderate neonatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy is likely to remain effective" report on an interesting issue on the effect of mild hypothermia treatment for neonatal HIE started after 6 hours from birth.

Although this data can be useful for neonatologist involved in the care of asphyxiated newborns, the methodology should be revaluated due to the absence of neuroimaging, neurological assessment and neurodevelopmental outcome, that decrease the value of the study.

Specific comments

Background

Please add some references for the first sentence.

Methods

Please define the criteria for HIE.

Further information about the characteristics of population are needed: US or MRI scans and the timing of these assessments and a neurological examination. Furthermore, the authors should perform a neurodevelopmental outcome.

Please provide the reference of Burdjalov for aEEG interpretation

Discussion

The results of the study are not correctly interpretable without neuroimaging and neurodevelopmental outcome.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

Unable to assess

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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