Reviewer’s report

Title: Efficacy of Levetiracetam for Neonatal Seizures in Preterm Infants

Version: 1 Date: 27 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Courtney Wusthoff

Reviewer's report:

The revised manuscript is significantly improved. There remain a few points requiring revision:

Results: - The study includes 37 neonates. 35 are described to have abnormal MRIs, but all 37 are listed as having a clear etiology for seizures. Please clarify which patients had normal MRI despite an identified cause of seizures? - Six infants are described as having germinal matrix hemorrhage. This does not usually cause seizures; this should either be removed as a cause or further explained why this was thought to cause seizures for those babies.- All patients were observed to have increased irritability or somnolence, yet no clinical side effects were noted. Perhaps clarify to "no serious clinical side effects were noted"?- definition of developmental delay should be included in methods, not results. Methods also need to detail whether developmental follow up was by standardized testing (and if so, which test), parental report, or some other method.

Discussion: - the fourth paragraph overstates the evidence basis for LEV. While case series suggest LEV may be efficacious, to summarize this literature as showing LEV could control 50-80% of neonatal seizures overstates the evidence base, and overgeneralizes findings from small series.

General: language proofreading is required for a few scattered grammar and language errors.

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.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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