Reviewer’s report

Title: Effects of valproic acid on skeletal metabolism in children with epilepsy: a systematic evaluation and meta-analysis based on 14 studies

Version: 0 Date: 10 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Evan G. Pivalizza

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review your manuscript. There are necessary grammar and language edits that you may need assistance with.

Several suggestions include:

Abstract:

Background: delete 'some

... to evaluate ..... 

Introduction:

Of these, ...... as an AED and mood ....
Growth ...... with epilepsy is a dynamic .... status, including bone ...
Delete 'study shows that'
Bone conversions?
To investigate whether it acts as ... disorder, multiple studies have been performed. WE colelcted ...... acid.

Methods:

.... Science from the start ....

Inclusion:

1. Children with epilepsy classified by the international ....

Exclusion:

Delete 'must be excluded' in #1, 'Except valproic acid' #3, 'the patient's' # 5
A star is awarded ..... qualified such that the ..... 
..... disagreement, a third expert was invited to .... 

Stats:

.... indicating low risk of heterogeneity
Delete 'to perform the analysis'

Results:

Delete 1st header
Of the initial 198 studies, 88 were inconsistent with inclusion criteria ( ......). Of the remaining 110, 71 were excldued ( ..... . ). Of the remaining 39, 25 were excluded.
2nd paragraph:
Studies ranged in size from 37 - 126 cases with 467 .... . Boys accounted for ...... in the valproic acid and ........ control groups respectively.
Delete 'summary analysis revealed' ..... with no differences ....

Quality

... retrospective .... orginated from
What do you mean with same exposure factors?
receeved rather than got .... stars

Heterogeneity
Accordinly, we used the random . ....to complete analysis.
.... results showed ..... which indicates no heterogeneity

For result paragraphs, be consistent and list CI in ( )

Discussion

... such as personal disease, drugs .... traditional agents
... system, followed by multi-disciplinary investigations

.... but results are inconsistent

2nd paragraph:
Our analysis included 14 studies with good ...... quality. Delete next 2 sentences - duplication of methods
Delete 'due to different opinions' sentence
...confirm this finding
3rd: ... which implies that
Start DEXA as new paragraph
Delete 'in other words'
... and affect bone structure

5th: Quality evaluation showed good homegeneity. N-O should be uppercase 1st letter
received rather than reached ... stars

Start new paragraph: Delete 'In summary' sentence, start 'Limitations

Acknowledgements: Did you mean reviewers rather than interviewers?

Figure legends: shorten throughout

1: After screening, 14 ..... 
...suggesting moderate ....

3: A and B. Valproic acid did not ......

4: A and B: Osteocalcin ... epilepsy was not affected by use of valproic acid

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
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