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: 1 Date: 03 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Evan G. Pivalizza

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for your thorough responses to reviewer comments which makes the manuscript a smoother, understandable read.

A few minor recommendations remain, some of which are merely to avoid repetition and improve flow:

Abstract:

Background: remove 'children with' 2nd line

Background:

Epilepsy is a common ....
4th line, use AED again
2nd paragraph: ... factors affect bone ..... ..... hypocalcemia and increased fracture ..... suggest identify instead of 'disclose'

Methods:

.... were searched for studies ......

Exclusions: ... receiving other ....

Methodological:

.... was awarded

Results:

Included studies showed ... (1st 2 headers) ..... were published between ..... 

Discussion:

1st paragraph: last sentence ...... treatment for epilepsy in children ..... 

2nd: Of note, serum calcium ...... 
Delete 'we found that'
4th: ... which implies that (rather than means)
Delete 'A previous study ...... adults' sentence

5th: Analysis suggested that ..... publication bias ..... 

Figure legend: 3: ..... in children with epilepsy
legend 4: .... were not affected

**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:

Acceptable
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