Reviewer’s report

Title: Hypertension Outcomes of Adrenalectomy in Patients with Primary Aldosteronism: a
Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 18 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Gregory A. Kline

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a very well written manuscript that is clear in describing the study intention
and design. Contrary to the authors' statements, it is not the first meta-analysis of PA
cure/outcomes to be published (see Benham J et al. J Clin Hypertens 2016;18:1205-12) although
draws nearly the same conclusions. The main contribution of the present manuscript is the
inclusion of Chinese-language publication data which is otherwise inaccessible to the English
readership. However, a few modifications should be considered:

1. As the second meta-analysis to be performed on this topic, the authors should explain
why a repeat meta-analysis is needed, how their meta-analysis differs and what new
information their paper brings to the literature. This should be addressed in the
introduction.

2. The methodology/study selection of this analysis is nearly identical to the JCH meta-
analysis and yet there is quite a difference in the number of papers retrieved for analysis.
From my perusal of the references, it looks like the present meta-analysis includes 7
Chinese language papers that would not have been used in the JCH paper but that still
leaves 11 more papers that were used in this analysis but excluded from the first meta-
analysis - can the authors explain why this might be?

3. Why did the authors choose a 6 month cut-point for follow up? It would be useful to
perform a meta-regression analysis looking at more time-strata to see if cure rates
decline over longer periods of follow up time, as has been previously reported.

4. Tables 3 and 4 are unnecessary and more suited to a general review article, not a primary
research paper. The discussion of such data is good but the actual tables should be
deleted.
5. The authors need to mention the limitation whereby most original studies do not report post-operative aldo-renin ratios and as such, biochemical cure cannot be ascertained. The authors should discuss the reasons why blood pressure alone is probably not a good outcome of interest in PA studies when viewed in isolation.

6. Reference 47 is incomplete

7. Table 1 should list the reference beside the study

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 am able to assess the statistics

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