Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparative efficacy of serotonin (5-HT3) receptor antagonists in patients undergoing surgery: A systematic review and network meta-analysis

Version: 1 Date: 22 March 2015

Reviewer: Anthony L Kovac

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have made a more readable report which is shorter and less confusing than their prior draft.

I am still a bit surprised that they can only write one page of discussion with so much data.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS:

They could have a better conclusion statement.

The authors need to be certain that they have the same conclusions in their abstract as they do in their paper.

I suggest that they take out the words "Most" and "powerful" in the conclusion of their abstract when they state that "Most 5-HT3 receptor antagonists are powerful antiemetic agents."

In my experience, all of the 5HT3 RAs are effect, but perhaps not that powerful with a NNT of 4 to 5. If the authors do not think that all of the 5HT3 RAs are effective, then they should state which one.

In their abstract, they should add that "granisetron plus dexamethasone was often the most effective antiemetic across the effectiveness outcomes considered, number needed to treat ranging from two to nine."

If they want to state this as a conclusion in the text of the paper, why not also in the abstract?

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

In the past 5 years, I have been a consultant for Helsinn Healthcare.