Reviewer’s report

Title: Youth Depression Alleviation with Anti-inflammatory Agents (YoDA-A): A Randomised Clinical Trial of Rosuvastatin and Aspirin

Version: 0 Date: 06 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Pao-Yen Lin

Reviewer's report:

The aim of this study was to compare adjunctive aspirin and rosuvastatin with placebo in youth depression with usual care. Overall, this study is well conducted. Research rationale is well described. Study procedures and results are well reported. I have some comments below.

1. Young people have less prevalence of major systemic diseases than adults and elderly people, and thus may have lower inflammatory response than older age groups. If this is correct, do authors expect to see a positive effect of aspirin and rosuvastatin in youth depression more than placebo? Moreover, is it speculated that elderly people with depression will be benefited from treatment with anti-inflammatory agents? I expected to see more discussion about this age factor.

2. Do patients receiving concomitant antidepressant drugs or psychotherapy respond better or worse from aspirin or rosuvastatin? This information is expected from collected data.

3. Authors are expected to explain why to use age, BMI, depression severity, and number of MDD episodes as the factors for subgroup analysis.

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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