Reviewer's report

Title: Diuretics vs. placebo for postpartum blood pressure control in preeclampsia (DIUPRE): a randomized clinical trial

Version: 2

Date: 25 March 2015

Reviewer: Louis L Peeters

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:

The power analysis is not clear about whether the required 120 inclusions refer to the total number or to the number needed in each of the 2 groups to be compared. Therefore, the authors ought to include the power calculation.

Regarding the primary outcome variables, the authors should include 1.) Daily sodium and/or fluid balance during the period of postpartum hospitalization; 2.) Daily bodyweight assessed as standardized as possible.

The background information provided in the "Introduction" section is at various points in conflict with current insights in blood pressure and volume regulations. For instance, blood pressure and volume regulation have different sensors (pressure - and stretch receptors, respectively) and different effectors (sympathetic nervous system and endocrine system [e.g. RAAS, vasopressin, ANP, BNP], respectively) and their regulatory "overlap" is complex. This aspect needs to be addressed.

Minor essential revisions:

To optimize comparability of the 2 study groups, the authors are recommended to measure the blood pressure in all patients with an automated BP device validated for pregnant women, such as e.g. the Microlife apparatus, as manual blood pressure measurement is hampered by subjective limitations which creates more type-2-error.

The authors are advised to include a better description of how they determine the interval needed for postpartum blood pressure normalisation after discharge from the hospital. More specifically: they are not clear about the outpatient follow-up after discharge. The language is not from a native person and requires some upgrading.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests