Reviewer’s report

Title: Self-declared stock ownership and association with positive trial outcome in RCTs with binary outcomes published in general medical journals - a cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 16 May 2017

Reviewer: Jon Tyson

Reviewer's report:

General Comments. This manuscript addresses an important issue and it appears to be carefully designed, performed and interpreted.

Specific Comments.

Abstract. Conclusion. Consider inserting between the first and second sentence, an additional sentence that like "Because the factors related to conflict of interest are not independent, a multivariable analysis should be cautiously interpreted. However, after multivariable adjustment....." A similar kind of qualification could be added to the conclusions at the end of the manuscript.

Methods, 6th line of text. Is there an error in stating "… Med, randomized OR randomized and…."? The exact meaning of the term "blinded for review" used at different points in the text is a bit ambiguous.

Statistical Analyses. With the differences between the studies with different COI types with respect to the proportion of positive studies and the greater ease in interpreting and comparing relative risk than odds, I would suggest the authors consider using relative risk (estimated using a Poisson regression analysis) than odds ratios.

Statistical significance is of course related to sample size as well as effect size. At least for trials with predetermined sample size or stopping rules, sample size is more related to imprecision than bias while effect size is more likely to be influenced by bias. The investigators might augment their paper by a supplementary analysis relating the type of COI to the effect size identified (whether or not the difference was significant).
Level of interest
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An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Quality of figures

All images and figures within the manuscript should be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation. No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. If you have concerns about the veracity of the figures you should choose the first option below.

Statistical review

Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.

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