Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessment of safety and efficacy of mesenchymal stromal cell therapy in preclinical models of acute myocardial infarction: a systematic review protocol

Version: 0 Date: 23 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Kerry Dwan

Reviewer's report:

1. Will you not search trial registries?

2. An example search strategy should ideally be included in the protocol.

3. Has thought been given to the design of non RCTs that will be included?

4. Risk of bias: Have you considered using the ROBINS-I tool for non RCTs? You state earlier in the manuscript that you will use a modified version of the Cochrane tool but do not describe this modification.

5. Data synthesis: you state the ratio for weighted means. Do you mean a mean difference? Why does baseline data matter in the use of standardised mean difference?

6. Selective reporting: I'm not sure the test referenced is exactly in relation to selective outcome reporting. There are other sensitivity analyses available, or you can assess the studies using ORBIT (Kirkham et al, BMJ 2010).

7. Analysis: has thought been given to confounders and the differences between RCTs and non RCTs and whether different study designs will be pooled?

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Acceptable
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