Reviewer’s report

Title: Pharmacotherapies for fatigue in chronic liver disease (CLD): a systematic review and meta-analysis (protocol)

Version: 0 Date: 10 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Karima Chaabna

Reviewer’s report:

The authors are planning to conduct a systematic review to assess the benefits and harms of pharmacological interventions versus placebo for the management of fatigue in people with chronic liver disease. This is an interesting topic. The protocol is clear and well written. Kindly find below my comments:

I would suggest to clearly state the different steps in which the reviewers are involved (screening, extraction, quality assessment). Line 123

Line 127-133: I would suggest to extract conflict of interest statement of each study as recommended by AMSTAR.

I suggest to assess first the forest plot in order to identify heterogeneity between studies.

Why not using tau2 and Q test to further assess the heterogeneity?

I would suggest to use fixed-effect model for the meta-analysis only if you include in your quantitative synthesis, studies with the exact same designs (same type of CLD, duration of the therapy...). Otherwise, I would suggest only the use random-effect models.

I would suggest to report your systematic review according to PRISMA guidelines (PRISMA 2009 and PRISMA for abstract 2013) and to provide an assessment of your future systematic review using AMSTAR tool.

I have identified some typos such as in line 66. I encourage the authors to proofread the manuscript.

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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