Reviewer’s report

Title: Perioperative use of gabapentinoids for the management of postoperative acute pain: protocol of a systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 15 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Harsha Shanthanna

Reviewer's report:

Perioperative use of gabapentinoids for the management of postoperative pain: protocol of a systematic review and meta-analysis

Thank you for providing an opportunity to review this interesting manuscript. Overall, it is a well written manuscript. I have some minor comments, few suggestions and a few questions.

I would appreciate if the authors can substantiate/comment/explain regarding the following.

* Page5-Line 139: pooling some studies with resting scores and others with movement scores will potentially lead to heterogeneity. Regional analgesia is well known to decrease movement related pain compared to medications and it seems that you would not exclude them and treat them similar to other studies. Did you consider looking at them separately, OR do a sensitivity analyses with studies that report movement related pain scores?

* Page 6-Line 150: I would suggest sticking to the term chronic postoperative pain. CRPS diagnostic criteria are not applied by most studies and this has led to inappropriate research conclusions.

* Page 6-Line 160: You will include studies performing regional anesthesia and exclude studies with neuraxial analgesia with the reasoning that it requires different clinical expertise and resources.
  * What if a study includes shoulder or other orthopedic/trauma surgeries under single or continuous brachial plexus anesthesia, without GA? How is it different from neuraxial anesthesia in clinical expertise and resources?

* Page 6-Line 161: Please explain-how do you expect initiation of gabapentinoids 1 week prior to surgery in patients having emergent surgery?

* Also, how do you plan to do deal with studies having patients with gabapentinoids administration for a chronic pain issue?

* Selection Criteria: clarify your selection of studies published in non-English literature for final inclusion and analysis

* Page 8-Data Abstraction: Under this, you should also mention that you will extract data on risk
of bias items

Statistical Analysis:
* Do you plan to conduct any sensitivity analyses?

* As per above, you have nearly 11 or more subgroup hypotheses. It is suggested that conducting more than 6-8 subgroup hypotheses may not be methodologically appropriate. How do you support your approach?

* Also, for each subgroup, it is expected that you indicate the potential direction of effect.

* Line 259-260[The fact that this drug is currently studied and used outside of approved indication mandates its appropriate evaluation]-can be taken out as it does not add beyond the background provided in the introduction section.

* Page 12-Line 258: Funding: Should this not be better stated as "unfunded"? If the funds were used to support publication charges, it may be stated so to avoid any assumptions or potential funding bias.

**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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None

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