Reviewer’s report

Title: The Effect of Post Mastectomy Radiation Therapy on Breast Reconstruction with and without Acellular Dermal Matrix: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis Protocol

Version: 0 Date: 17 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Jorge Acosta-Reyes

Reviewer's report:

This research protocol has an interesting idea, but the manuscript has many failing.

First, It’s no clear why the final search date is in 2016 (righ now it is outdated). Authors should correct the date.

Do not include articles in several languages or gray literature is a significant limitation in a Systematic Review. Please, review and take the better decision.

I do not know what the authors want to say with this phrase "The references of selected works will be reviewed using SCOPUS to identify additional articles that meet inclusion criteria". Please review and use the consistent search strategy described in the literature to search for articles based on the references of other articles

I recommend that 2 authors carry out the search and then compare the results, before evaluating the titles and summaries.

Primary outcomes are poorly described. I recommend improve the definition. The authors should mention the statistical measure used for each outcome. The flaw is that there is no clear definition of complications, therefore it is difficult to know the level of measurement of each outcome.

Please, It isn’t necessary describe the form to data extraction. It is enough to say that they will use it. Delete all related to this. "Data will be extracted using predesigned forms using Excel (Microsoft) for the following items..." change for "Data will be extracted using predesigned forms."

<50% does not mean that there is no heterogeneity, please review.

It is important to describe if the results will be presented according to the type of study from which the information was extracted. The results of controlled studies are not the same as of observational studies

Authors describe that they will use the Cochrane RoB tool for randomized studies and NOS for Non-randomized studies. Why are not authors using the ROBINS tool?
Remove: "The results of this study will be published in an appropriate plastic surgery, breast surgery or oncology journal. This work will also be presented at conferences in these fields."

I dont agree with this phrase: "If there are an insufficient number of articles, the review will proceed as a descriptive narrative." The authors are conducting a systematic review and do not understand that regardless of the number of items identified, it will remain a SR. Another point is whether they can perform a meta-analysis, which will ultimately depend on the number of articles and the heterogeneity.

**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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No