Reviewer’s report

Title: Influence of adjuvant antibiotics on fistula formation following incision and drainage of anorectal abscesses: A systematic review protocol

Version: 0 Date: 28 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Carolina Queiroz Flumignan

Reviewer's report:

REVIEW - Influence of adjuvant antibiotics on fistula formation following incision and drainage of anorectal abscesses: A systematic review protocol

ABSTRACT:

The Cochrane Risk of Bias tool and Q-Cochrane test are used only in randomised controlled trials. In no-randomised studies, the tool, which could be used, is the ROBINS-I.

KEY WORDS:

I recommend changing no-MESH terms to similar MESH terms. In your key-words list, there is not a MESH term, and this may difficult the citation of your review in the future.

METHODS:

Besides the described databases, I would recommend you to search in LILACS, Ibecs, OpenGrey, with free and controlled vocabulary (e.g. Emtree, MeSH).

I suggest including adverse events and evaluation of the quality of life with any validated questioner as separated secondary outcomes.

I did not notice if it would be cited the length of the studies. There are diseases with fistula as part of it - as Crohn. How can you describe if the fistula would be because of the surgical intervention, or because of the disease's natural history? It would be a confounder.

In RISK OF BIAS (230), you cited the use of ROBINS-I for no-randomised trials. Please put it in the abstract.

(233) This is a concern to me, the heterogeneity using different designs of studies is expected to be great. For the meta-analysis, I suggest restricting to randomised and quasi-randomised trials.
A subgroup of antibiotic types would be used as a possible analysis.

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity. I was glad to help in this study.

**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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Were you mentored through this peer review?

No