Reviewer's report

Title: The Therapeutic Effects of MicroRNAs in Preclinical Studies of Acute Kidney Injury: A Systematic Review Protocol

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Reviewer: Javier Neyra

Reviewer's report:

Zankar et al. report their protocol "The therapeutic effects of microRNAs in preclinical studies of acute kidney injury: a systematic review protocol". I congratulate the authors for designing a study to systematically address evolving experimental evidence on the therapeutic role of miRNAs in AKI. The protocol is well-written and adherent to PRISMA-P recommendations. Here are my suggestions to consider in their protocol:

1- The authors outlined several sources of heterogeneity in experimental AKI research but one that was not well emphasized was the timing/duration of administration of the miRNAs (or alternatives) in relation to the onset of injury (e.g., before, immediately after, 1-2 days after, etc.). The timing/duration of administration may be considered as part of the planned sub-group analyses

2- The authors should briefly outline the possible mechanisms of candidate miRNAs (or alternatives) for ameliorating AKI or promoting kidney recovery/repair. A summary Table may enhance this report and benefit the scientific community

3- If the main purpose of this work is to contribute and accelerate the translation of miRNAs therapies into trials in human AKI, the authors should consider adding to their protocol the examination of clinical data on miRNAs measures in human AKI. This may help identify windows of administration of these potential drugs in humans. Despite the authors clearly pointed out that current human data of miRNAs in AKI are purely observational, the scientific community may benefit from systematic reporting and summary of these data, which may also contribute to future interventional studies in humans

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