Reviewer’s report

Title: Oral nutritional supplements for preventing surgical site infections: Protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 15 Oct 2019

Reviewer: David Blihar

Reviewer's report:

Though I do not think the protocol should be published separate from the MS, I do want to see this paper pursued. There definitely are a lot of potential applications in post-surgical medicine from your findings and how to minimize SSI complications. Please see my comments below to continue to improve the science and writing of your MS.

Abstract:

-Page 2, text lines 31-53: separate the methods, discussion, and registration bolded text with returns. The information reads easier.

Background:

-Page 3, text lines 66-67: The text is a run-on. Consider revising to the following:

Nonetheless, the prevalence of SSIs may be under-estimated as most present within 30 days following a surgical procedure; a proportion of which likely to develop outside of hospital (7, 8).

-Page 3, text lines 70-73: The text seems excessively wordy. Consider revising to the following:

SSIs result in delayed wound healing, increased hospital stays, increased use of antibiotics, unnecessary pain, death of the patient in extreme cases, as well as increased health resource use and expenditure depending of the location, depth, and severity of the infection (9, 10, 11).

-Page 4, text line 77: only ASA should be enclosed in ()

-Page 4, text line 80: which type of hospitalization? Acute, continued, or any?

-Page 4, text lines 88-90: What do you mean by "most screening tools only distinguish undernourished patients from other patients"? Is it possible for you to expound on this a little more?

-Page 4, text line 91: United States should be listed as United States of America for the sake of clarity.

-Page 5, text line 105: "however" needs a comma after it
Methods/Design

-Page 6, text lines 148-149: You state that you will not exclude based on language. Can you clarify whether you have translation services available?

-Page 9, text lines 204-226: Please use the same bulleting/listing method for primary and secondary data. It makes the section read easier.

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:

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