Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 28 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Jonathan Bayuo

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a systematic review protocol to identify the effects of oral nutritional supplements in the prevention of surgical site infections. The review is essential and has the potential of guiding clinical practice considering the consequences of SSIs. Kindly find my comments below:

1. The paper is generally well-written and rigorous. However I will suggest that the authors consider using subheadings in the methods/design section to guide readers. Though it forms a coherent piece, subheadings can help readers navigate through it.

2. Though the authors plan to include published and unpublished RCTs, it remains unclear the sources of the unpublished RCTs. Besides, will the authors include thesis/dissertations that also focused on the phenomenon they are investigating as some of these theses may use cluster RCT approach?

3. The authors will need to consider and acknowledge the possible limitations of their review.

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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