Reviewer’s report

Title: Beta-blockers for the primary prevention of anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

Version: 0 Date: 24 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Ying-kun Guo

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this work. I read the manuscript entitled "Beta-blockers for the primary prevention of anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials" with interest. The authors performed a meta-analysis on the protective effect of beta-blockers of anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity. However, I have several comments and questions that the authors should clarify.

Major comment:

1. Results: the quality of the included studies seems too high. I wonder if the items in Cochrane collaboration's tool are truly met in each study. Please clarify. Please check with the Cochrane collaboration's tool item by item in the included studies. The authors should give more details about the bias in the included studies.

2. Methods: a reference should be cited for "I2 was >50%, heterogeneity was considered to exist".

3. Methods (Statistical analysis): "These four trials [5, 7, 8, 12] were excluded as a sensitivity analysis." The word "excluded" is quite confusing, please check the sentence and make sure it has expressed what it means.

4. Conclusions: one of the conclusions that the authors have drawn is that beta-blockers can alleviate cardiomyocyte injury, but there is no relevant method or result have been mentioned in the article that can come to such a conclusion.

5. Conclusions: the authors claim that the beta-blockers are safe with cancer patients. However, this study did not present relevant method or result about the toxicology of beta-blockers in these groups of patients.
Minor comment:

1. Results: to express participants undergoing carvedilol treatment, the word "receive" should be used instead of "accept".

2. Please specify the primary end-points and secondary end-points

3. Supplemental Table 1, Characteristics of the included randomized controlled trials, is preferred to be presented in the main text instead of being placed in the Supplemental material, since it contains important information of this study.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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