Reviewer's report

Title: Relapse rates after elective discontinuation of anti-TNF therapy in rheumatoid arthritis: A Meta-analysis and Review of Literature

Version: 1 Date: 03 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Wei Yang

Reviewer's report:

Usage of statistical methods were appropriate, and the results were well presented. A few minor comments are listed below.

Page 7 line 37 "… standard error of the estimated event rates was plotted against the logarithmic transformation of the estimated event rates" it is not consistent with figure 5, which shows "logit event rate". The logarithm transformation and the logit transformation are not exactly the same.

Figure 2. The study name column doesn't align with the other column. In the same figure, event rates would only be between 0 and 1. The bar plots showed the range from -1 to 1. Also, the confidence intervals showed for the event rates are many time skewed towards one of the two sides, especially when the estimations are close to 0 or 1. Showing values in the logit scale will make it easier to compare across studies. I would probably make the bar plots with logit transformed rates, but show the x-axis still with rates in normal scale so it is easy to interpret.

Page 9 line 15-18: "imputation plotted no missing studies on the right side. The trim and fill method adopted to assess the impact of publication bias, showed that point estimation and 95% confidence interval for the combined relapse rates remain uncharted after trim and fill test(0.45, 95% CI=0.28=0.51)"

While results from imputation and the trim and fill methods are both quite persuasive, it helps to include some descriptions on how/why these methods and their results indicated no significant impact of publication bias, since usage of them are still quite limited in field.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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

Unable to assess

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

Yes

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

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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