

Detailed response to Reviewers' comments

Comment: NMAs in the abstract and introduction should be written in full at the first mention. The abstract should have been structured in such a way it will contain background, objectives, findings and conclusion. In this way, the abstract would be able to stand alone and convey full information.

Response: Thank you for your comment. Please note that the abbreviation "NMA" in the introduction and the abstract has been written in full when first mentioned. In addition, the abstract has been restructured in a way that contains the background, the objectives, the methods/findings and the conclusion.

We have added to the text: "We have emphasized the prerequisites of a well-conducted Network Meta-Analysis (NMA), the value of selecting appropriate outcomes according to guidelines for transparent reporting, and the clarity achieved via sophisticated graphical tools. What is more, we have addressed the importance of incorporating the level of evidence into the results and interpreting the findings according to validated appraisal systems (i.e., the Grade of Recommendations, Assessment, Development, and Evaluation system - GRADE). Lastly, we have addressed the possibility of planning future research via NMAs. Thus, we can conclude that NMAs could be of great value to clinical practice."

Specific Comments to Authors: • The title reflects the main subject of the manuscript? • The abstract summarizes and reflect the work described in the manuscript? • No keywords • The manuscript adequately describe the background • The manuscript highlights the subject concisely and clearly • Figure 2 is a table and should have a title • References are appropriate and updated • However there are some notes as appeared in the attached file: o Language is good, however some phrases have to be more simplified o All the abbreviations in the text must be identified when first mentioned o The title (Prerequisites for a well-conducted NMA) have 4 subtitles that should be separated from the following titles o The paragraph started with "Prospective registration" is not entitled as one of the former prerequisites

Response: Thank you for your feedback. The title has been altered to "Network meta-analyses: methodological prerequisites and clinical usefulness. A mini review". The abstract has been modified to reflect the background, the objectives, the findings, and the conclusion of the manuscript more accurately. The keywords "Network meta-analysis; quality of evidence; evidence-based medicine; systematic reviews" have been added. The titles: "Figure 1.A Network-Meta-Analysis plot example" and "Figure 2. A league-table example" have been added to Figures 1 and 2 respectively. The abbreviation "NMA" has been identified when mentioned at least for the first time. Furthermore, prospective registration has also been addressed in the paragraph: "Prerequisites for conducting NMA- The statistical power". What is more, the titles "Prerequisites for a well-conducted NMA- The hypothesis of transitivity and heterogeneity", "Prerequisites for a well-conducted NMA- The statistical power", "Conducting pair-wise meta-analysis is a prerequisite for proceeding with NMA", "Prerequisites for a well-conducted NMA- Selecting appropriate outcomes", and "Following guidelines for transparent reporting" have been added to paragraphs 2-6

to highlight their contents' role as prerequisites for conducting Network-Meta-Analyses.

Comment: In the manuscript, please write the name for abbreviations (NMA and NMAs) because the reader wants to know what do you mean by NMA and NMAs. I think you mean by this abbreviation is network meta-analysis, and you should adhere to one abbreviation only for network meta-analysis. – Please write Figure 2 in the manuscript; because it was missed during writing. - In the fifth row for “Improving interpretation of NMA findings” subsection, please correct the spelling for “Meah Difference” into “Mean Difference”. Also, please write abbreviations for Standard Mean Differences and Mean Differences as SMD and MD, respectively. – If it possible, please mention in the introduction section that incorporating network meta-analysis in clinical guideline could help doctors in clinical practice in selecting the best available drug with good safety and efficacy from multiple drugs to use it for patient’s care.

Response: Thank you for your valuable input. As far as the abbreviation “NMA” is concerned, the full name “Network Meta-Analysis” has been added next to it at least the first two times it was used. It has also been used in the titles. Furthermore, “figure 1” and “figure2” have been added to each figure. What is more, the orthographical error in the phrase “Mean Differences”, has been addressed. Lastly, the phrase: “that incorporating network meta-analysis in clinical guideline could help doctors in clinical practice in selecting the best available drug with good safety and efficacy from multiple drugs to use it for patient’s care.” Has been added at the end of the introduction section.