Current Updates in Neurology and Neuroscience

Review Report

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Article Title: Lower Door to Needle Times – Is it the Pace that Kills?

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Submission Date: September 22, 2016

Review Status: Revision Required

How to Cite this Report: Liam Chen. ReviewReport for: Lower Door to Needle Times – Is It The Pace that Kills? [Version 1, Awaiting Peer Review]. Curr Updates Neurol Neu-

rosci. (2016) 1: 1.1

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The Advani et al. studied the effects of increased number of IVT treatment and decreased DTN time on AIS patient mortality over the period of 2009 to 2015. I have the following comments:

- The OTN times in 2009 and 2015 are 135 and 110 minutes respectively. Is there a significantly decreased OTN time over the six years? If not, a discussion of why DTN reduction, NOT OTN reduction, could lead to lower mortality should be included.
- One interesting observation is that the most significant reduction in median DTN time are seen between 2009-2010 and 2011-2012, however, the in-hospital mortality rates increase from 2009-2010 and 2011-2012. Although it may very well be a random fluctuation, a more detailed examination that whether "emphasis on speed" leads to "erroneous treatment" should be done and discussed.

I have read this submission. I believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard, however I have significant reservations, as outlined above.

