Reviewer’s report

Title: The efficacy of a comprehensive lifestyle modification programme based on yoga in the management of bronchial asthma: a randomized controlled trial

Version: 8 Date: 23 June 2009

Reviewer: Cheryl M Salome

Reviewer’s report:

Minor essential revisions
In the abstract and results, the analysis of “number needed to treat” should specify the outcome – presumably an improvement in total AQOL score greater than 0.5 (ie greater than the MID)? Was this the same outcome for the sub-domains of the AQOL?

The data analysis for the PFTs and the AQOL scores includes an overall between group comparison, using a GLM with repeated measures, as well as a number of within-group comparisons between baseline and follow-up measurements. It is not clear why these within-group comparisons are needed, since the message of the paper is conveyed very clearly in the overall between group comparisons. To support the contention that changes in the yoga group occurred earlier and to a greater extent than in the control group, it would be more appropriate to include a group x time interaction in the GLM analysis. Similarly, a group x time interaction should be included in the Friedman analysis to allow an overall between group comparison for the non-normally distributed variables.

Discretionary revision
The paragraph discussing previous trials of yoga is very lengthy, and could be shortened to focus on the key differences between this study and previous studies.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests