Author's response to reviews

Title: Effectiveness of a Cognitive-Behavioral Group Intervention for Knee Osteoarthritis Pain: Protocol of a Randomized Controlled Trial

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AUTHORS' REPLY TO THE REFEREE

First of all, we would like to thank the referee for his encouraging comments and criticism.

Referee 3:

Referee Comment:
“The definition for the exclusion criterion related to likelihood of compliance to treatment continues to be vague and not replicable. I would suggest you either drop this criterion or provide an operational definition for judging likelihood of compliance.

Author’s reply:
We have dropped this criterion (“unlikely to be compliant”). See the revised table 1.

Referee Comment:
“The LOCF method for imputing missing data is no longer considered sound. There are a variety of other statistical approaches that are superior to the LOCF approach”

Authors’ reply:
We consulted our statistician concerning this point. He suggested to use the expectation–maximization algorithm for imputing the missing data. Please see the revised Statistical analysis on page 11, 2nd paragraph.