Reviewer's report

Title: Moxibustion for treating knee osteoarthritis: study protocol of a multicentre randomised controlled trial

Version: 4  Date: 6 November 2012

Reviewer: Hi-Joon Park

Reviewer's report:

1. This study is designed to test the effectiveness and safety of moxibustion for knee OA.

2. To clarify the primary and secondary hypothesis, please describe the detailed aims more clearly using numbers.

3. In addition to this, authors commented that the cost effectiveness and qualitative research will be performed as well. Authors also need to specify the aims related with these research.

4. There are no rationale why the economic evaluation and qualitative research are essential for this study. Please describe these in the background.

5. The methods for economic evaluation and qualitative research are messing. Please specify how to collect the cost data, and how to perform qualitative research in separate sections with each heading.

6. In addition, do you interview all patients? Or how to select the appropriate candidate for qualitative study? Please specify it.

7. Please include quality control for this study.

8. Please specify how to protect human subjects.

9. Discussion is missing, and this needs to be added.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.