Reviewer's report

**Title:** Protocol for a randomized controlled study of Iyengar yoga for youth with irritable bowel syndrome

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 16 December 2010

**Reviewer:** Andrew Vickers

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors are to be congratulated for their responsiveness to the reviewer comments. One problem remains, however. The randomization section remains inadequate. The procedure is the equivalent of having a randomization list in a locked drawer. If the research assistant is the individual determining eligibility and entering patients on the trial, there is an obvious possibility of selection bias (I know that the next patient will be allocated to yoga, and this patient does not look like a winner, so I won’t convince him to sign consent). Either the Excel database has to be held by a third party, or better, design in such a way that an allocation is revealed only when data is entered (e.g. a patients name) and that data can’t be changed. I don’t know if that is possible to do in Excel, it is pretty straightforward in Access, you just have two separate but linked databases, the allocations are stored on the one which can only be accessed by someone not associated with the trial.