Reviewer’s report

Title: Moxibustion for pre- or stage I hypertension: A Study protocol for a randomized controlled open trial

Version: 1 Date: 17 September 2012

Reviewer: Tobias Freund

Reviewer’s report:

The protocol “Moxibustion for pre- or stage I hypertension: A Study protocol for a randomized controlled open trial” describes a pilot study on moxibustion for hypertensive patients. I recommend some minor revisions prior to publication of the protocol in Trials.

1) Abbreviations such as “JNC-7”, “ITT” etc. should consistently be written out in full if mentioned first

2) Group A and Group B should consistently be referenced in the text (e.g. as A: 2 times/week and B: 3 times/week)

3) Randomization: The statement “…each group will include 15 participants, which is the minimum sample size necessary to evaluate the effect of moxibustion” needs referencing.

4) Exclusion criteria: Topic 15 seems to contain a typo: “…who are deemed not (?) unsuitable for the study”

5) Please detail the timepoint of primary outcome assessment (I suppose blood pressure change at T1, i.e. immediately after 4wks of treatment?). As treatment will be confounded by additional treatment or moxibustion after the first 4weeks in all groups, secondary outcomes may hardly be assessed at follow-up timepoints. You may want to discuss this point in short.

6) Please insert “pilot” in the title (as title approved by IRB was “Moxibustion for pre- or stage I hypertension: a pilot randomized controlled open trial”)