Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of individualized acupuncture on patients with osteoarthritis of the knee: protocol of a multicenter randomized controlled trial

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Reviewer: lawrence friedman

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. It is well-written and contains the key information necessary for a protocol manuscript. I have a few comments/questions:

a) On page 15, the Trial Status should be expanded a bit. It should indicate if participant enrollment is still being done and approximately when the enrollment and trial completion is expected.

b) On page 10, the sentence about the “no acupuncture treatment group” is in the past tense and implies that enrollment has ended. Is that true?

c) There are four treatment groups. Will there be just one overall analysis or will each control group be compared with the individualized treatment group? If the latter, why is there no adjustment for multiple comparisons (the alpha is set at two-sided 0.05)? The analysis plan could be explained a bit more.

d) In the Discussion, last paragraph, it is clear that the authors hope that the individualized therapy will prove beneficial. That is a reasonable hope, but it would be preferable to be a bit more objective as to the expected outcome.