Author's response to reviews

Title: Acupuncture for lateral epicondylitis (tennis elbow): study protocol for a randomized, practitioner-assessor blinded, controlled pilot clinical trial

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Revision Note: #6687175959490332
Reviewer's report
This manuscript specifically, there is nothing to revision.
The manuscript will be useful to researchers who are interested in these studies.
The quality of the language of the manuscript is appropriate.
There seems to be no need to look specifically for statisticians

->Thank you for your comments.

Editor’s requests
1) Please describe randomization as per the SPIRIT guidelines.
http://www.bmj.com/content/346/bmj.e7586
#
->Thank you for your helpful comments.
We modified the description of randomization as your indication; Participants will be assigned with a 1:1:1 allocation ratio according to a computer-generated randomization list. And randomization will be stratified by dominant hand, as in left- or right-handed.

2) Please change LOCF for imputation and to remove the paired ttests to test change within groups, an uninteresting hypothesis.
#
Thank you for your professional comments.

We changed the MMRM instead of LOCF for imputation as your suggestion; For the missing data will be handled with mixed model for repeated measures (MMRM) under the assumption that observations are missing at random (MAR). We removed the paired t-tests to test change within groups as your indication.