Reviewer’s report

Title: Effectiveness of strengthened stimulation during acupuncture for the treatment of allergic rhinitis study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 6 Date: 29 April 2014

Reviewer: Charlie Goldsmith

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Comments to authors. The replies from the authors were mostly handled well; however in the revised manuscript there are still some issues that are not correctly handled. Many misuses of English still remain in the revised manuscript. The pages were numbered from 1 to 24.

1. Page 1, under author list. There is no superscript 1 listed and there should be.

2. Paragraph 1, line 9. This sentence does not make sense. It needs to be rewritten. The [If] condition does not make sense. ITT does not drop anyone that is randomized.

3. Paragraph 3, line 2. Include the date of registration as well as the date the first patient was randomized.


5. Page 4, line 13. Replace [numbers] by [number].

6. Page 6, line 4. Delete [etc.]. Readers will not know what to put in here.

7. Paragraph 9, line 2. Replace [subject to] by [use]. Also Item 1 and 3 may justify a patients stopping therapy but does not remove them from the ITT analysis. See Little RJA et al NEJM 2012-Oct 4.

8. Page 10, line 6. Include the location of the manufacturer.

9. Page 12, heading should be plural [Primary Outcomes] since there is more than one.

10. Page 13, line 5 and 6 should be rewritten to something like: [... any trouble at all, 2-somewhat troubled, 3-moderately troubled, 4-quite a bit of trouble, 5- very troubled, 6-extremely troubled.].

11. Page 13, heading should be plural [Secondary Outcomes] since there is more than one.


14. Page 15, line 2. Delete [and received at least one treatment session]. This is not ITT. ITT is all patients randomized, regardless the number of sessions.

15. Page 16, line 5. Rewrite as [of 1 to 2 cm ...].

16. P 17, p 3, l 6. Add a [.].
17. P 17, p 4, l 4. Rewrite as [Chinese].
18. P 24. The file name is not clear.