Author's response to reviews

Title: Feasibility, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled, multi-centre trial of hand-held NB-UVB phototherapy for the treatment of vitiligo at home (HI-Light trial: Home Intervention of Light therapy)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors

Please receive revised manuscript describing a feasibility, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled, multi-centre trial of hand-held NB-UVB phototherapy for the treatment of vitiligo at home (HI-Light trial: Home Intervention of Light therapy). We thank you and the reviewers for their important comments. We addressed all of them to the best of our ability. The following revisions were made, with 'tracked changes' in the manuscript:

Editorial requests

Request 1: Please mention each author individually in your Authors’ Contributions section. We suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Revision 1: Done (page 25).

Authors’ contribution: VE conceived the study. VE developed the training package on home handheld phototherapy. VE and KT performed the statistical analysis. VE, KT, JR, JB, MW and HW coordinated the trial from the Centre of Evidence based Dermatology. JR was Principal Investigator for
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust). VE, JR and JB recruited participants for the trial. All authors participated in its design and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Reviewer’s 1 comments (Reviewer: Rong Chu)

Comment 1: First bullet point for the secondary objective related to the successfulness of training package was stated in the "Author’s response to Reviews" but missing in the main text.

Revision 1: Corrected (page 9). The following s bullet point was added as per “Author’s response to review”: To prepare a training package for participants explaining how to use the intervention and how to deal with possible side effects

Comment 2: Table 2, SD of age for children in the placebo group (n=1) should be n/a rather than 0.

Revision 2: Corrected (page 30).

Reviewer’s 2 comments (Reviewer: Jinhui Ma)

Comment 1: I have just one minor essential revision. The manuscript need some edits before publication. For examples, in the Abstract, I would prefer: 1. Results: Eighty three per cent (45/54) of the vitiligo patients ... 2. Results: Both devices (Dermfix 1000 NB-UVB and Waldmann NB-UVB 109) were acceptable to participants. 3. Conclusions: the last sentence seems not quite clear. Not sure if it is better to change it to, for instance, ”The study has shown strong willingness of participants to be randomised, very good treatment adherence and repigmentation rates, and provided evidence of feasibility for a definitive trial”.

Revision 1: All the above were corrected (page 5-6).
Comment 2: In the Objective, the authors missed one secondary objective in the main text but stated in the cover letter. I only gave some examples of edits here. The authors should edit the manuscript throughout.

Revision 2: Corrected as above (see comment 1 of reviewer 1 and page 9 of manuscript).

I am looking forward to hearing from you and please do not hesitate to contact me if any enquiries.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Kindest regards

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(on behalf of the writing team)

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