Reviewer's report

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)

Version: 1
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Reviewer: Rong Chu

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript titled “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)” describes a pilot study to examine the feasibility of conducting a large pragmatic multicentre RCT on the use such devices by exploring recruitment, adherence, acceptability, side effects and additional measures. Results and recommendations from this pilot work will help design and conduct the main trial in a field that demands high quality evidence to guide patient management. Below are some comments to specific sections of the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Introduction. Scientific background for the main study has been provided. Can the authors also explain the rationale for assessing feasibility in this pilot study? What was the rationale for choosing and comparing the two different NB-UVB devices in the pilot?

2. Objectives. Please state the objectives and hypothesis for the main trial, followed by the objectives of the pilot study. “The primary objective of this pilot trial was to establish the proportion of eligible participants …” A proportion is meaningful when the numerator and denominator are specified. What are numerator and denominator populations here? “To establish … side effects” as a secondary objective is confusing. Did the authors mean to establish or assess the incidence/occurrence of side effects, or to define what the side effects are and how they can be measured? Please clarify the third secondary objective also.

3. Outcomes. Please specify the primary and secondary outcomes of the main trial and align them with the objectives of the main trial. If the suitability of the primary outcome cannot be determined prior to the completion of the pilot trial, include this as part of the feasibility outcomes. Would repigmentation be analyzed as a count, binary value (presence yes or no) or other types of variable? For the proportion outcomes in the pilot trial, please ensure the numerators and denominators can be perceived without ambiguity.

4. Results, recruitment. Please add fractional numerator and denominator next to the rates, e.g. response rate = 79%.

5. Results. What was the finding on missing data assessment which was
mentioned as a secondary outcome in the Methods section?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interest