Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparing high altitude treatment with current best care in Dutch children with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis (and asthma): study protocol for a pragmatic randomized controlled trial (DAVOS trial).

Version: 2 Date: 28 January 2014

Reviewer: Cindy Cooper

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary revisions

This protocol is of sufficient standard to be published in Trials and the writing standard is good. Revisions are not essential.

However, I have two suggestions which would improve the replicability of the protocol.

1. In the description of the protocol (lines 166 onwards) there is a description of multidisplinary treatment and development of a multidisciplinary treatment plan occurring before randomisation. However this stage does not appear in the consort diagram. This is important as there are several differences between the two groups and it is important to be able to understand whether this process is fully undertaken PRIOR TO randomisation.

I would suggest that the CONSORT diagram is amended to include this stage or process.

2. Secondly, the intervention groups vary in a number of ways. This is acknowledged in the discussion and detailed information is provided in the description of the interventions and Table 1. However, although the discussions acknowledges that there are differences in setting and the fact that children are or are not separated from there parents there also appears to be the potential for great differences in the treatment and educational programs delivered. It would be helpful for an exploration of how similar or different these are to be included in the discussion section.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'