Reviewer’s report

Title: Extracorporeal shock wave therapy in the treatment of bone marrow edema syndrome of the knee: a pilot study

Version: 3 Date: 5 June 2015

Reviewer: Thomas Niethammer

Reviewer’s report:

This data seems to be very interesting, but I have several concerns about the study. In general, this manuscript is well written.

6. Detailed information for Authors (optional)

Title:
No comments

Abstract:

Line 41: Conclusion is too strong formulated. There is no supporting data in the current manuscript which provide this strong conclusion. Please rephrase these sentences.

Introduction:

Line 78: Why do you give this information about electromagnetic fields in this manuscript? Electromagnetic fields are not part of this paper.

Line 85: There is no information about the chosen control group with Iloprost and bisphosphonate treatment in the introduction section. Please give some information.

Line 85: Please add the hypotheses of this study at the end of the introduction.

Methods:

Line 98: Why Do you take this control group instead of a non-treatment group? Please give some literature to explain why.

Line 122: Why do you take this ESWT adjustment? Is there a reference?

Line 125: Why do you use the t-test instead of a test for non-normally distributed data.

Line 125: Did you perform a power analysis?

Results:

No Comments

Discussion:

Line 193: Please start the discussion with your major finding.
Line 194: Please discuss the used methods and give literature if it is necessary to show that the used methods are appropriate. Especially the control group is not clear stated.

Line 266: This sentence is too strong for this study. Please rephrase.

Line 276: Unfortunately, there is no information about the etiology of the treated BMEs. Can you give some more information about this aspect. Otherwise it should be stated in the limitation section.

References:
Please make sure that your references are updated with recent relevant citations.

Figure legends:
No comments

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.