Reviewer's report

**Title:** Decreasing the number of arthroscopies in knee osteoarthritis – the Personalised Knee Improvement Programme (P-KIP). A service evaluation of a de-implementation strategy

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 17 Dec 2019

**Reviewer:** Wei Yang

**Reviewer's report:**

Most of my previous comments have been adequately addressed. The following points still need to be checked.

Lines 301-303 "Paired T-tests were also conducted for non-parametric data as this test is robust against deviations from normality". With the authors response, I understood that both the nonparametric Wilcoxon signed rank test and the parametric t test were performed, but it is a false statement to say "t test were .. for non-parametric data" and "this test is robust against deviations from normality". Maybe change it to something like: additionally, we have also performed paired T-test under the normality assumption on the same data.

Line 341-342 "The slope after P-KIP changes significantly (coefficient = -1.231; p < 0.001; 95% CI =-0.647 - 1.779)" Please check if the numbers are correct. The coefficient value -1.231 is not within the confidence interval, and this CI can not be statistically significant as 0 is covered by it.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal