Reviewer's report

Title: STICKS Study - Short-sTretch Inelastic Compression bandage in Knee Swelling following total knee arthroplasty - Study Protocol for a Randomised Controlled Feasibility Study

Version: 1 Date: 12 January 2015

Reviewer: Ian Holloway

Reviewer's report:

Minor revision:

The compression bandage technique is for application after release of the tourniquet, and for the conventional wool and crepe dressing for application before release of the tourniquet. This represents a potential confounding factor in favour of the wool and crepe group. Given that recruitment has now finished, it will not be possible to change this, but it should be mentioned as such in the discussion.

An alternative would be to apply the portion of the compression bandage below the tourniquet prior to tourniquet release, and then the remainder after. This would make the two groups more comparable. This could be considered for the full study.

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