Author's response to reviews

Title: Electro-acupuncture for treatment of knee pain from osteoarthritis and the possible endocrinology changes: a study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

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Title: Electro-acupuncture for treatment of knee pain from osteoarthritis and the possible endocrinology changes, quality of life improvement and reduction of pain medication use: a study protocol for a randomized controlled trial
Javier Mata, Sandra Cabrera, Pilar Sanchís, Pedro Valentí, Patricia Hernández, Regina Fortuny, Serafin Lirola and José Luis Aguilar

Dear Editors of Trials,

We would like to thank the referees for their comments and suggestions, as these have helped us to greatly improve the quality of the manuscript. We have made the following modifications, represented point by point in accordance to the referee’s comments.

- **Major Compulsory Revisions**

1. Methods/Design, Participants, third paragraph, third sentence: “The patient dropout rate of subjects who abandon the study has been estimated to be zero, although, in cases of patient loss or abandonment, new ones will be recruited to fulfil designed patient number.” Could you provide the lecture you cited for this methodology?

A total of 160 patients will be necessary (80 subjects for each treatment group) to detect differences greater than or equal to three points in the pain perception assessment according to Visual Analogue Scale (VAS, scale 0 – 10). Accepted values will be for an alpha risk of 1% and beta risk of less than 5 % in a bilateral contrast as well as a value of 4 for the standard deviation (size effect: 0.75). It is assumed that 20% of the trial patients will be lost to attrition.

Reference:

- **Minor Essential Revisions**

1. The title should be modified for the reason that it is too long. Moreover quality of life improvement and reduction of pain medication use are just secondary variables; you had better omit them in the title.

The title has been modified and shortened according to the journal title style for study protocols. The title now reads as:
Electro-acupuncture for treatment of knee pain from osteoarthritis and the possible endocrinology changes: a study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

2. Although a professional English editor helped you correct grammatical problems, there are a number of grammatical problems. And you should modify the grammar, spelling and writing. And you had better provide a demonstration of language editing company. For instance:
*Please employ italic format, when you mention the names of the acupoints and academic institution in...*
Dr. John Voorheis Sibole, a native English speaker and also an English philologist, has thoroughly revised the manuscript to provide clarity and grammatical correction. We have set the names of the acupoints and the academic institution in italics as suggested by the editor. Thank you for clarifying this convention.

We hope these corrections have made the manuscript acceptable for publication in your journal.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely,

Javier Mata
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Son Llàtzer Hospital