Reviewer's report

Title: Analgesic effect of cathodal transcranial current stimulation over right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex in subjects with muscular temporomandibular disorders: Study Protocol

Version: 1 Date: 14 April 2015

Reviewer: Anne-Marie Glenny

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
The study protocol is registered on Clinicaltrials.gov (NCT02152267). However, there are some discrepancies between the information provided online and that presented in the submitted protocol. These discrepancies need addressing before the protocol can be considered for publication. For example, the clinicatrials.gov inclusion criteria state:

• Age between 18-45 years
• Visual analogic scale (VAS) score from 4 to 10
• Inventory of state-trait anxiety (ISTA) score more than 42

The submitted protocol lists the inclusion criteria to be:
• Age between 18-60 years old
• Visual analogic scale (VAS) score from 4 to 10 for six months or longer
• Inventory of state-trait anxiety (ISTA) score smaller than 38

In addition, the structure of the protocol would benefit greatly from following the SPIRIT statement. Currently information on outcomes, for example, appears under ‘Procedure Details’, ‘Study variables’ and ‘Outcomes’. Use of the SPIRIT checklist may ensure further, necessary information on items such as method of assignment (i.e allocation concealment/implemention) are included. Without this detail, it is difficult to assess the potential for bias within the study.

Additional points: sample size seems small; justification for use of cross-over design for this condition and justification for duration of wash-out period needed

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests