**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Warm Needling Acupuncture and Medicinal Cake-separated Moxibustion for Hyperlipidemia: Study Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 13 Apr 2017

**Reviewer:** Mikyung Kim

**Reviewer’s report:**

1. The intervention is too complicated. To add a schematic diagram will help the readers to understand it better.

2. To present the details of the intervention in a table based on STRICTA will help increasing the readers' understanding.

3. The therapeutic regimen is too complex. The warm needling acupuncture is actually a combination of acupuncture + moxibustion.

In addition, two types of medicinal cake-separated moxibustion is applied at acupoints on back area and abdomen area.

And the medicinal cake-separated moxibustion is composed of a cake made from various herbs and a moxa cone maybe composed of mugwort.

In fact, any one among those methods has not yet been clearly revealed.

It is questionable why you had to choose such a complicated regimen.

I worry that it will be very difficult to interprete the results from this study using such a complicated regimen.

4. Consideration should be given to the economic feasibility of the treatment intervention and simvastatin.

5. This study is actually a comparative study of warm needling acupuncture + cake-separated moxibustion versus simvastatin.

You can use abbreviations 'like acupuncture and moxibustion' in the text or running head, but the title of the manuscript should clearly state what the target intervention for this study.

6. The resolution of figure 1 is too low to understand for readers.

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:
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Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.

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