Reviewer’s report

Title: Targeted anti-staphylococcal therapy with endolysins in atopic dermatitis and the effect on steroid use, disease severity and the microbiome: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial (MAAS trial).

Version: 0 Date: 26 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Erik Cobo

Reviewer’s report:

Your spirit table has some 'non-applicable' statements (2b, 18b, 21b, 23, 26b, 31c). Please, consider that future reviewers and editors of your final results-manuscript will appreciate to find easily as much information as possible. The reason for "non-applicable" items will be very helpful to them. In addition, in order to facilitate future review, please consider specifying the section and paragraph number in the Spirit table.

Please, consider clarifying the reason to choose placebo and no active treatment for the comparison group.

You account for some patient drop out (line 177). Please consider useful advice to prevent it at http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsr1203730. Sorry to be soo late with this advice. Please, also note that excluding patients after randomization (line 177) always has implications (at least, more uncertainties than those just reflected by the statistical analysis of the non-excluded patients; and that the intervention you may propose will not apply to all eligible patients).

Please, consider specifying that final report will follow the CONSORT 2010 criteria.

Please, consider deleting "difference in" (the effect size measure) and "between the Staphefekt and the placebo group over 12 week" from the specification of the main outcome. Something like: "The primary outcome of this study is the days per week corticosteroid use".

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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Please indicate the quality of language in 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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