Reviewer’s report

Title: INfluence of Successful Periodontal Intervention in Renal Disease (INSPIRED): study protocol for a randomised controlled pilot clinical trial.

Version: 1 Date: 26 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Natasha Wiebe

Reviewer's report:

Under the response to Reviewer #2, we have:

"7. Will you look for differences between the groups on dichotomous outcomes as well?

How will report them? I'm also not sure what you mean when you say that the mean differences will determine sensitivity to change. Change in what?

This has been clarified by the sentence: "This will help determine the sensitivity of the outcome measures, such as eGFR, ACR, PWV, and measures of inflammation or oxidative stress to change" at the end of the "Outcome data" section."

There are two parts to this comment. The first inquires about the statistical approach to dichotomous outcomes. This was not answered.

As for the second part, while the authors have expanded what they mean by outcomes, it still doesn't answer my question. "This will help determine the sensitivity of the outcome measures [list of outcomes] to change." I think you are looking for what outcomes may be sensitive to your intervention. Please include the intervention in that sentence, that is the missing piece that causes confusion.

I have no further comments.

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