Reviewer’s report

Title: The EKSPECT Study: The influence of Expectation modification in Knee arthroplasty on Satisfaction of Patients: study protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial.

Version: 0 Date: 02 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Vikki Wylde

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for submitting this interesting study protocol to Trials. Please find below some minor suggestions to improve the reporting of your protocol:

General: Please could the English and grammar be checked and improved throughout the manuscript

Methods - did PPI inform the design of this trial? If not, please discuss this as a limitation in the discussion section

Methods - please clarify which clinical and trial staff are blinded

Methods - please clarify the use of the NRS pain - does it ask about pain over the past 24 hours, past week, past month?

Discussion - please include a section discussing the limitations of this research including the single centre design, the lack of qualitative work and the lack of a cost-effectiveness analysis

SPIRT checklist item 8: Please add to the manuscript the type of trial, allocation ratio and framework

SPIRT checklist item 11a: Please provide sufficient information to allow replication of the intervention. For example is the lecture delivered in a group-based setting? How many patients are in each group? How is this only delivered to patients in the intervention group? What steps have been taken to limit or assess contamination between the intervention and usual care group? It may be easier to summarise the content of the lecture in a Table, rather than the main text.

SPIRT checklist item 11c - please state in the manuscript how attendance at the intervention is recorded

SPIRT checklist item 20c - please provide details on how missing data will be handled in the analysis

SPIRT checklist item 21a - please provide justification on why a TSC and DMC are not required for this trial
SPIRT checklist item 25 - Protocol amendments should be updated on the Trial Registry record. Please amend

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

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

**Quality of figures**
All images and figures within the manuscript should be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation. No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. If you have concerns about the veracity of the figures you should choose the first option below.

**Statistical review**
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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