Reviewer's report

Title: Novel optical spectral transmission (OST) guided versus conventionally disease activity guided treatment: study protocol of a randomised clinical trial on guidance of a treat-to-target strategy for early rheumatoid arthritis

Version: 0 Date: 19 Nov 2018

Reviewer: David Hamilton

Reviewer's report:

Many thanks for inviting me to review this study protocol that evaluates novel optical device versus disease activity guided treatment in guiding clinical management of rheumatoid arthritis. It's an established trial, with the appropriate approvals and is currently recruiting. The only comments on the protocol presented is an error in the primary outcomes stated in the objectives. There are 2 primary outcomes suggested - the HAQ at 18 months and the change from baseline. Clearly there can only be 1 primary outcome. I note that the study is powered on the baseline to 18 month delta. I would also expect to see some detail/description as to the outcome measures used in the methodology.

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