Reviewer’s report

Title: Effectiveness of Music Therapy for Alleviating Pain During Haemodialysis Access Cannulation for Patients Undergoing Haemodialysis: A Multi-facility, Single-blind, Randomised Controlled Trial

Version: 0 Date: 15 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Sunil Badve

Reviewer's report:

1. The manuscript needs to be revised with scientific terms rather than using lay terms. For example-
   a. The term 'shunt vessel' should be changed to 'hemodialysis access' as shunts are no longer used in clinical practice.
   b. The term 'puncture' should be changed to 'cannulation'.
   c. Please change the term 'external' analgesics to 'oral or topical' analgesics.
2. In the abstract and the main text, please clarify who the operator is. Is the nurse cannulating or the person administering the headphones referred as the operator?
3. Describe the rationale for measuring salivary amylase activity.
4. Describe/define white noise as most readers will not be familiar with this term.
5. Please describe whether the use of concomitant analgesics will be allowed in the trial.
6. How is the volume of the sound regulated?
7. Analysis set: please clarify whether the analyses will be conducted according to the intention-to-treat principle. How missing data will be handled? Please clarify whether missing data will be imputed.

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

An article of importance in its field

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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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