Reviewer's report

Title: Music Use for Sedation in Critically ill Children (MUSiCC trial): study protocol for a pilot randomized controlled trial

Version: 0 Date: 11 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Maiken Pontoppidan

Reviewer's report:

This is a very well-written protocol for a pilot RCT of music use for sedation in critically ill children. It is a relevant study and the aims and procedures of the trial are clearly described.

I am not working with critically ill children so I cannot review whether the exact outcome measures used are ideal but they seem to be well documented.

My only major concern is that the protocol was not published before recruitment ended.

I have a few minor comments:

Do you ask older children not to tell if there is music or not in the headphones? If they tell it to the clinicians then they are not blinded anymore.

When you move to a larger trial you have to statistically handle that the same children can be included more than none time

I think that reference 35 is wrong? it does not seem to be a reference on the sample size of pilot studies?

Good luck with the trial.

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Quality of written English
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