Reviewer's report

Title: Is the Nintendo Wii Fit really acceptable to older people?: A discrete choice experiment

Version: 1 Date: 23 June 2011

Reviewer: Willaim Young

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript addresses an important and timely topic; assessing the choices that older adults make concerning their preference for either traditional physical training methods, or using the Wii Fit. The aims of the study are well presented and would be of significant interest to readers of BMC Geriatrics. However, the authors fail to present details that I would consider to be crucial if the article were to be worthy of publication.

Major compulsory revisions

1. You mention in the discussion that one limitation of the study is the low number of participants, but as far as I can tell, you fail to mention how many participants were included in the analysis?

2. The findings of the study are interesting. However, there is little detail in the discussion regarding why older adults are less likely to continue using the Wii Fit. I agree with the points made regarding the manner in which the Wii Fit is portrayed in the media, but there are other important factors. For example, is it the use of the technological equipment compared to more traditional methods? Is it the characteristics of the software that cause the problems as they are primarily designed for a wider/younger audience? There is relevant literature available that should be used in these discussions such as Young et al. 2011 who showed significant improvements in balance measures in older adults using bespoke balance games designed for the Wii balance board specifically to address the problem of the Wii Fit being too challenging for older adults.

Minor essential revisions

3. The participant characteristics described at the start of the results section should be moved to the methods section.

4. Please provide a brief hypothesis at the end of the introduction. The aims are too open-ended at present

Discretionary revisions

5. Page 2 line 4 “..aged care settings however..” poor grammar, please revise

6. Page 3 line 10 “..motivating therefore..” insert “and”

7. Page 4 line 13 Start a new sentence here and Insert a corer after “therefore”

8. Please ensure that you are consistent when including numbers. For example, do not write the word “six” if you are using Arabic numerals elsewhere.
9. Page 8 line 9 “ie conventional” poor grammar and phrasing, please revise
10. Page 9 line 9 “are that they are” poor phrasing, please revise
11. Page 9 line 20 “their cost versus” poor phrasing, please revise
12. Page 9 line 22 “what they know” poorly stated. please clarify

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests