Reviewer’s report

Title: A perturbation-based balance training program for older adults: study protocol for a randomised controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 14 April 2007

Reviewer: Catherine Sherrington

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is well-written report of the background to and plans for an important trial. The intervention program has been very carefully designed and is well justified in this manuscript. I await the results of the trial with interest.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
I would like to some further justification of the choice and relevance of perturbation-based balance training when the majority of challenges to balance faced by older people in daily life are in situations where the ground is stationary.
A reference to the Cochrane review of interventions for falls prevention would also improve this manuscript.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
None

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

Up until 2004 I was employed by the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute which sells some of the equipment used in the proposed study (FallScreen) on a cost recovery (rather than profit making) basis.