Reviewer's report

Title: Are the effects of a non-drug, multimodal activation therapy of dementia sustainable? Follow-up study 10 months after completion of a randomised controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 1 October 2012

Reviewer: Michael Rafii

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Major Compulsory Revisions

This is a well written paper summarizing results from a study looking at the effects of a one year multimodal therapy 10 months after completion of therapy.

1. There is significant overlap between the error bars of MAKS and control group in figure 2 and 3. It is not clear that there is a statistically significant difference between the two groups at 12 months or 2 months. The authors should clarify this difference.

2. Need to include error bars for figures 4 and 5.

3. The authors should describe the other potential forms of dementia that may be diagnostic considerations in their study population, and impact on treatment effect.

4. The authors comment "Hence, intensive multimodal therapy should be started as early as possible and especially applied continuously to retain as long as possible not only the ADLs abilities but also the cognitive functions, and thus to retain the independence of people with dementia." The authors show no data that earlier intervention has any greater effect; i.e. patients with higher baseline performing better on subsequent testing.

5. Did the authors do a subgroup analysis of those on ChEI vs not on ChEI to see if there was synergy with non-drug and drug +MAKS therapy?

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:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'