Author’s response to reviews

Title: Design of the EXercise Intervention after Stem cell Transplantation (EXIST) study: a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of an individualized high-intensity physical exercise program on fitness and fatigue in patients with multiple myeloma or (non-) Hodgkin’s lymphoma treated with high dose chemotherapy and autologous stem cell transplantation.

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

We’ve changed our manuscript on two points:

the title:

from: "Design of the EXercise Intervention after Stem cell Transplantation (EXIST) study. A randomized controlled trial to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of an individualized high-intensity physical exercise program on fitness and fatigue in patients with multiple myeloma or (non-) Hodgkin’s lymphoma treated with high dose chemotherapy and autologous stem cell transplantation."

To: "Design of the EXercise Intervention after Stem cell Transplantation (EXIST) study: a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of an individualized high-intensity physical exercise program on fitness and fatigue in patients with multiple myeloma or (non-) Hodgkin’s lymphoma treated with high dose chemotherapy and autologous stem cell transplantation."

In the methods section (randomization procedure) we also now included block size:

from: "After the baseline measurements a randomization will take place conform a stratified block randomization method using a validated software package [40]."
to: "After the baseline measurements a randomization will take place conform a stratified block randomization method using a validated software package [40] and with a block size of 4."

Yours sincerely

Saskia Persoon, MSc