Reviewer's report

Title: Study protocol. Active video games to promote physical activity in children with cancer: a randomized clinical trial with follow-up

Version: 3  Date: 11 February 2014

Reviewer: Carolina Chamorro-Vina

Reviewer's report:

As I mentioned before, this is a very interesting article in the field of physical activity and pediatric oncology. I am glad to see how the authors nicely incorporated the reviewer’s feedback, resulted in a huge improvement of this manuscript.

Most of my suggestion/questions were well addressed by the authors. I only want to mention a couple of discretionary and essential revision.

Discretionary revision

1- I still consider that the Wii Fit game is not age-appropriate for the smallest children (3-5 years). You choose the Wii games because they are a really good way to motivate children to do physical activity. However, I concern regarding the effect of playing a video game not-age appropriate might have in these children. I think this will promote boredom that will result in an unsatisfactory commitment to the exercise program. I am pretty sure that this will not be possible due to the recruitment already started. However that would be something that authors might consider to incorporate for future interventions.

2- Regarding the physical activity prescription will be great if you can explain more details. As you know, the Wii fit have different games to target the development of aerobic capacity, balance, strength and flexibility. Therefore, if we just prescribe 30 minutes using the Wii Fit, even if the entire participant meet that recommendation, we would have a broadly range of results. The outcomes obtained from a participant playing 30 minutes of balance games might be very different of those who play 30 minutes of aerobics games. For that reason I think you should explain how you are going to manage it.

Essential revision

3- You say that you are going to do light-moderate physical activity intervention and parents will control that. However, you do not mention any tool to measure that intensity in your intervention. How parent will realize what a light or moderate intensity means?

Please: Define the intensity of the exercise intervention using RPE scale or Heart rate or any other tool that you consider appropriate.

Looking forward to see this article published soon.

Warm regards, Dr. Carolina Chamorro-Vina
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 declared that I have no competing interest.