Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of an internet intervention for family caregivers of people with dementia: design of a randomized controlled trial

Authors:

Marco M Blom (m.blom@alzheimer-nederland.nl)
Judith E Bosmans (judith.bosmans@falw.vu.nl)
Pim Cuijpers (p.cuijpers@vu.nl)
Steve H Zarit (z67@psu.edu)
Anne Margriet Pot (ampot@trimbos.nl)

Version: 2 Date: 26 July 2012

Author’s response to reviews:

In response to the e-mail of July 19th, I would like to clarify that we have ethical approval. The study protocol, information brochure and informed consent procedure were approved by the Medical Ethics Committee (METIGG, CCMO: NL27434.097.09) in May 2009. I have uploaded the decision letter. This letter is written in Dutch. Therefore we made a short translation, describing the content of the letter with an exact translation of the conclusion. Given the fact that the METIGG has been discontinued, it was not possible to provide an endorsed and signed document on this.

As stated in the abstract, the study has been registered in a suitable and publicly accessible registry; www.trialregister.nl (NTR-2051 / RCT-DDB). We had to sent in the approval of the Medical Ethical Committee to be accepted in the registry. Later, the scientific committee of the EMGO also approved the study protocol on the basis of peer review. The committee had the decision of the Metigg at their disposal. I hope this information on the ethical approval is sufficient. If not, please let us know.

Concerning the other questions/remarks:
- the study did not received external funding by a major funding body.
- the study has not received funding/assistance from a commercial organization.
- no manuscripts are under submission with other journals based on this study protocol.

We can confirm that we intent to submit to BMC Psychiatry. We think our study fits best to the aim of this journal.