Author's response to reviews

Title: Preliminary results, methodological considerations and recruitment difficulties of a randomised clinical trial comparing two treatment regimen for patients with headache and neck pain

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Dear Reviewers,

we thank you for the opportunity to publish our paper. We made the required changes. A point by point overview is presented below.

On behalf of all authors,

Yours sincerely,

Willem De Hertogh

**Associate Editors comments:**

Page 10, line 2 and page 11, page 23: I think that regimen should be regimes (plural).

>This has been changed.

Page 12, line14: I do not think that the abbreviation OTC has been explained previously in the manuscript.

>Since the abbreviation occurred only once in the text it was omitted. Over-the-counter is now written in full.

Tables 1 and 2 would benefit from a few horizontal lines.

>Horizontal lines have been inserted. By analogy, we added horizontal lines in tables 3 and 4.

Figure 1, top boxes: capital letters are used inconsistently.

>This has been changed.

**Reviewers comments**

Reviewer 3:

Minor essential revisions

Abstract

Page 2 line 28: This sentence is not formulated as a conclusion. What was the most important recommendations?

>The abstract has been changed: “Additional studies with larger study populations are needed to draw firm conclusions. Recommendations to increase patient inflow in primary care trials, such as the use of an extended network of participating physicians and of clinical alert software applications, are discussed.”

Data reduction an analysis

Page 8 line 2-3. “..to adjust for baseline values”. The meaning is unclear. A two-way analysis of variance of follow-up measurements does not in itself adjust for baseline values. Did you include the baseline values as a covariate in the analysis or did you include the baseline values as the first follow-up measurements?
The baseline values were included as the first follow-up measurements. This information has been added.

Primary outcome measures
Page 9 line 8. "There were no significant differences between both treatment groups":[...]. Is this referring to a comparison between groups of follow-up measurements or a comparison of reductions (i.e. change from baseline)? This should be clarified. The sentence is repeated in the discussion (page 10 line 8-9).

It concerns a comparison at each follow-up measurement. The sentences have been adapted.

Formatting changes

Major revisions (We require the author to make these changes)

Reference 19 ¿ please provide full and accurate details for this reference. This means for an Article providing year/volume/issue/page numbers and for a book the publisher/city/year.

This reference has been changed: it can be referred to as a web page.

Reference 27 ¿ please provide full and accurate details for this reference. This means for an Article providing year/volume/issue/page numbers and for a book the publisher/city/year.
Reference 32 ¿ please provide full and accurate details for this reference. This means for an Article providing year/volume/issue/page numbers and for a book the publisher/city/year.

Both references are correct and are found as such in Pubmed. These are references to open access journals. They can be accessed via

Figure title - The image file should not include the title or figure number (e.g. Figure 1... etc.) or figure number. The legend and title should be part of the manuscript file after the reference list. The figures are numbered automatically in the order in which they are uploaded.

Figure titles and numbers are omitted.

Table citations - all tables must be cited in the main body of the manuscript file at least once. Currently, we notice tables 3 is missing.

This has been changed.

Minor revisions (We can make these changes on resubmission, although it will speed up publication of your manuscript if you do them while making the major changes above).

Please complete affiliation 4

Line numbers - Please remove these.

Highlighting - Please remove all highlighting from the manuscript.

Keywords ¿ Please remove these.

Table and figure placement text - Please remove this.

Please retitle 'Declarations' 'Acknowledgements' and place after the 'Authors' contributions' section

Figure cropping - It is important for the final layout of the manuscript that the figures are cropped as closely as possible to minimise white space around the image. Our online figure guide contains full details for preparing files for submission and can be viewed here:
http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/figures

All these changes have been made.