Author's response to reviews

Title: RCT Examining the Effect of Exercise in People with Rheumatoid Arthritis on Anti-TNFalpha Therapy Medication

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Author's response to reviews: see over
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewers Recommendation</th>
<th>Authors Response</th>
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<tr>
<td>The null hypothesis should be phrased as two sided at the moment the change is only mentioned in one direction and the alternative hypothesis should be given.</td>
<td>Following the reviewer’s recommendation the authors have phrased the hypothesis as two sided. The change has been inserted in red font (line 191-195).</td>
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<td>The randomization sequence is a key part of a RCT and my advice would be that the authors ask a statistician to do this with professional statistics software. It can be done in Excel, but Excel is a software which is prone to errors if someone is not so familiar with it. However, if the person who plans to do this has good knowledge in Excel this should be no problem.</td>
<td>Following discussion with the statistician it was agreed that a randomisation sequence would be drawn up using SAS software. The manuscript has been modified accordingly and the change has been highlighted in red font (line 240-241).</td>
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<td>I still would like to motivate you to use ANCOVA adjusted for baseline values instead of ANOVA, because there is evidence that this is the better analysis especially if the effects expected are small. Please see Vickers AJ. Statistical reanalysis of four recent randomized trials of acupuncture for pain using analysis of covariance. Clin J Pain 2004 Sep;20(5):319-23).</td>
<td>The authors wish to thank the reviewer for this recommendation. They have consulted with the statistician and following reference to the suggested article and other publications by AJ Vickers they have amended the manuscript as recommended. The changes have been highlighted in red font (line 424-433).</td>
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