Author's response to reviews

Title: Night-time splinting after fasciectomy or dermo-fasciectomy for Dupuytren's contracture: a pragmatic, multi-centre, randomised controlled trial

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Version: 4 Date: 13 June 2011

Author's response to reviews:

Authors’ response to reviewers’ comments (version 3)

We thank the authors for the helpful suggestions which we have addressed as follows and inserted in text as 'track changes':

Title: Night-time splinting after fasciectomy or dermo-fasciectomy for Dupuytren's contracture: a pragmatic, multi-centre, randomised controlled trial
Version: 3 Date: 6 June 2011
Reviewer: Tara Packham

Reviewer's report:
Thank you for addressing the points raised in the initial review process.
Major compulsory revisions: none
Minor essential revisions:
1. Discussion section, paragraph one - insert "composite" between active and flexion (this will better mirror the language in the abstract/introduction/methods)
done
2. Discussion section, paragraph 4 - this is not clear as you list strengths of the study then include a limitation. Suggest changing to "error remains low, and yet the confidence intervals..."
done
Discretionary revisions:
3. Discussion section, paragraph 2, final sentence - suggest moving the word "either" to immediately before the words "active flexion or extension".
Done

4. Conclusion section - suggest changing final sentence to "should only be advocated where a loss of extension has occurred, particularly if the losses are rapid or early in the post-operative period."
Done

Reviewer: Maria Kostaki
Reviewer's report:
A few more changes are suggested to be done before publishing this interesting Study

Minor Essential Revisions:
1.- In the "Interventions" paragraph of the "Methods" section, the phrase "when and why...protocol" in the last sentence could be replaced by the "the reasons of treatment deviation from protocol"
done

2.- In the "No splint group" paragraph of the "Methods" section, in the phrase "The dates and reasons... the trial coordinator notified.", the word "was" could be added before the word "notified".
Done

In the same paragraph, in the last sentence, the word "but" could be deleted and the word "though" could be added before the word "given".
We have deleted ‘but’ however inserting ‘though’ as suggested is grammatically incorrect.

-In the "outcome assessment" paragraph of the "Methods" section, in the last sentence, "with" would better be replaced by "of".
Done

-In the "Discussion" section, the phrase "We did conduct one such subgroup analysis...of the primary analysis" should be written in another way as it’s meaning is not very clear.
We have rephrased this section and hope this now reads clearly

Discretionary Revisions:
-A comma (,) should probably be added between "consented" and "further" in the phrase "The baseline clinical and demographic characteristics...the external
validity of this trial", in the "Discussion" section.
Done

We hope these changes are satisfactory