Author’s response to reviews

Title: The Effect of Continuous Ultrasound on Chronic Low Back Pain: Protocol of a Randomized Controlled Trial

Authors:

Safoora Ebadi (s_ebadi@razi.tums.ac.ir)
Noureddin Nakhostin Ansari (nakhostin@sina.tums.ac.ir)
Nicholas Henschke (nhenschke@georgeinstitute.org.au)
Soofia Naghdi (naghdi@sina.tums.ac.ir)
Maurits W van Tulder (maurits.van.tulder@falw.vu.nl)

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
To the editor,

RE: The Effect of Continuous Ultrasound on Chronic Low Back Pain: Protocol of a Randomized Controlled Trial

We would like to thank you for considering our study for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders. Regarding the comments by Dr. Maher, we have made the necessary changes to the manuscript. Listed below are the responses to each of the comments:

- Please justify why a one-tailed p value is specified

A two-sided test would consider whether the primary outcome is significantly different from the hypothesized value (no difference in effect), considering both tails of the distribution of the test. A one-sided test will look at whether the primary outcome is more than the hypothesized value (difference more than 0). We expect ultrasound to be more effective, so have chosen for a one-sided test.

(Parts have been added to the manuscript under Sample Size which has been highlighted.)

- Please revise sentence 1 of the second paragraph to: "In Iran, like the rest of the world, the burden of chronic LBP has been shown to be great" as the current version is not quite correct grammatically.

This has been addressed in the text and highlighted.