Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Web-Based Therapeutic Exercise Resource Center as a Treatment for Knee Osteoarthritis: A Prospective Cohort Pilot Study

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 20 January 2014

**Reviewer:** Soren Thorgaard Skou

**Reviewer’s report:**

Reviewer’s report ver. 2

The manuscript has improved following the revisions. Below are some further comments and questions that must be addressed.

**Major Compulsory Revisions (MCR)**

MCR 1: Methods. TERC Intervention. The intervention has now been elaborated. However, it can still be improved with more information on how the exercise was performed, intensity, etc. I know that it is probably not possible for you to make the exercise available as a supplementary file, but that would improve the possibility to reproduce your study for others.

MCR 2: Methods, Primary Outcome Measures. Referring to the CONSORT statement (http://www.consort-statement.org/consort-statement/3-12---methods/item6a_outcomes/) having several primary outcomes is not recommended. I would recommend that you only have one (usually the one used for your sample size calculations) or two primary outcomes and move the rest to secondary outcome (+move the demographic variables to a headline called “Baseline data”).

MCR 3: Results, first paragraph and Discussion, eight paragraph. I think you need to address this comment from my last review more thoroughly: “Only 80% (52 out of 65) completed both the baseline and 8-week follow-up. Please address this as a potential limitation to the results. Perhaps the last 20% did not improve in symptoms and was not satisfied with the internet-based intervention?”

**Minor Essential Revisions (MER)**

MER 1: Abstract, Methods and Methods, Participants. You write that 65 individuals diagnosed with mild/moderate knee OA based on symptoms and radiographs were enrolled. How did you know that the patients had mild to moderate knee OA radiography, when the radiographs were obtained as part of the patient’s routine care. I guess you got the results from their physician, but please elaborate on how the diagnosis/rating of the patient OA status was given.

MER 2: Background. You now state: “The TERC is the first comprehensive web based system designed to evaluate, prescribe, monitor and adjust exercise programs for knee OA patients.”
You have included a paper in the reference list (Journal of medical Internet research 2013, 15(11):e257) also working with web-based intervention for knee and/or hip OA. Is this intervention not applicable to the sentence stated above/what is new in your study compared to that one?

Minor issues not for publication (MIP)

MIP 1: Abstract, Results. “BMIor” should be “BMI or”

MIP 2: Background, third paragraph. “thetheir” should be “their”

MIP 3: Background, third paragraph. “tomanage” should be “to manage”

MIP 4: Background, fourth paragraph. “withinindividuals” should be “within individuals”

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests