Author's response to reviews

Title: A three month controlled intervention of intermittent whole body vibration designed to improve functional ability and attenuate bone loss in patients with rheumatoid arthritis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Author’s response to reviewers:

05 November 2014

The Biomed Central Team

Thank you for consideration of our manuscript for publication in your journal. We have considered the reviewer’s comments and have revised our manuscript accordingly.

Reviewer 1: Vanessa D Sherk

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript has markedly improved from the previous version. My concerns have been addressed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.

The authors thank the reviewer for her previous suggestions and agree that the manuscript has consequently been improved.

Reviewer 2: Guy Plasqui

Reviewer's report:

Is there any possibility to use a validated accelerometer such as the Actigraph or have the Acticals already been purchased? That will make the physical activity more valuable.
Unfortunately, the Acticals have already been purchased. We have previously used the Acticals successfully in two studies conducted in similar cohorts of patients with RA (Prioreschi A, et al. The clinical utility of accelerometry in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Rheumatology (Oxford). 2013;53:1–7; and Prioreschi A, et al. Changes in physical activity measured by accelerometry following initiation of DMARD therapy in rheumatoid arthritis. Rheumatology (Oxford). 2014;53:923-926), and thus feel comfortable that this assessment technique will provide valuable results. However it is unfortunate that funding restraints prevent us from purchasing Actigraphs at present.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests.

Sincerely,

Alessandra Prioreschi