Title: A pragmatic randomised controlled trial of hydrotherapy and land exercises on overall well being and quality of life in rheumatoid arthritis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir or Madam

A pragmatic randomised controlled trial of hydrotherapy versus land exercises on overall wellbeing and quality of life in rheumatoid arthritis.

Eversden L, Maggs F, Nightingale P, Jobanputra P.

My colleagues and I would be very grateful if you could consider this manuscript for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders. This is the largest randomised trial of hydrotherapy investigating the impact of this therapy on quality of life. Our study has recently been presented as an oral presentation for the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) meeting in Amsterdam (June 2006) and an abstract of our study has been published in a supplement of the Annals of Rheumatic Diseases.

I can confirm the following: that the study is not being considered by any other journal; that ethical approval was obtained for the study from the Research and Development and Ethics committees of University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust; and that, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, there are no competing financial interests.

We believe our paper is an important contribution to the evidence base regarding hydrotherapy for rheumatoid arthritis and also believe that it is wide interest for rheumatology practitioners. We hope you agree.

Yours sincerely

Dr Paresh Jobanputra
Consultant Rheumatologist