Reviewer's report

Title: A review of randomized controlled trials comparing the effectiveness of hand held computers with paper methods for data collection.

Version: 3 Date: 18 April 2006

Reviewer: Petra Knaup

Reviewer's report:

General
Most of my suggested revisions have been well addressed, so that there remain only a few minor points.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

- Delete the paragraph in the introduction, where you explicitly discuss the limits of one particular trial. Other studies will have comparable limits, so why this especially this one is stressed.

- I still have problems with the search strategy. The authors explain now, that they have combined a variety of terms with 'or'. It is scarcely conceivable for me that this combination of terms lead only to 201 article. The term 'PDA' alone should already lead to more findings.

- Delete the reference to figure 1 in the introduction. The figure mainly presents results and gives no new insight in the process.

- The discussion of the topic is fine. I still miss a critical reflection about their scientific proceeding. Main points are:
  *** Are the author sure that they have found all relevant articles?
  *** Do they think it is valid to draw conclusions and to generalize from such a few number of articles?

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

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