Author's response to reviews

Title: A cluster randomized controlled trial investigating the impact of different modes of vitamin B12 supplementation on neuroconduction and cognitive function among older people living in Santiago, Chile. A study protocol [ISRCTN 02694183].

Authors:

Hugo Sanchez (hsanchez@inta.uchile.cl)
Cecilia Albala (calbala@uchile.cl)
Eva Hertrampf (ehertram@inta.uchile.cl)
José Luis Castillo (jcastill@med.uchile.cl)
Renato Verdugo (rverdugo@med.uchile.cl)
Manuel Lavados (mlavados@yahoo.com.ar)
Lydia Lera (ller@inta.uchile.cl)
Alex Brito (abrito@inta.uchile.cl)
Lindsay Allen (lindsay.allen@ars.usda.gov)
Ricardo Uauy (uauy@inta.uchile.cl)

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The Nutrition Journal Editorial Team

In relation to comments made by reviewers:

We agree with the Reviewer 3 that MMSE is used primarily for the screening of dementia (in Chile along with PFAQ). However the primary outcome MMSE score was selected as valid criteria for measuring the effectiveness of the intervention. Under conditions of effectiveness it is not feasible for us to perform the whole cognitive battery to the 300 participants. To cope with that concern we have planned to perform -at baseline and 18 months- a complete battery of cognitive tests more precise and accurate than MMSE in a subsample of 120 people. Those include language ability (Boston Naming), verbal memory (CERAD), working memory (WAIS-II-R), attention (DSST) and executive function (Stroop Test).

We hope that this clarification will satisfy the observations made to the manuscript.

Kind Regards

Hugo Sanchez