Title: Case Management in Oncology Rehabilitation (CAMON): The effect of case management on the quality of life in patients with cancer after one year of ambulant rehabilitation. A randomized controlled clinical trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors

Thank you for evaluating our manuscript MS: 8079001045014316 by Bachmann-Mettler et al. entitled

**Case Management in Oncology Rehabilitation (CAMON):**


We appreciate the comments of the reviewer and the opportunity to submit a revised version of the manuscript taking the concerns into consideration as described below in a point-by-point response. We hope that these responses sufficiently improved and strengthened the manuscript to render it now acceptable for publication in the journal Trials.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

With best regards,

Mathyas Wang, MD
Claudia Steurer-Stey, MD
Oliver Senn, MD
Irene Bachmann-Mettler
Reviewer’s report:
1. This appears to be a Protocol paper. Please indicate this is a Protocol paper in the Title and Abstract.

Our response:
We agree with the reviewer comment and adapted the title and abstract accordingly.

Reviewer’s report:
2. On page 9, please provide additional details regarding the random sequence generation. How is randomisation stratified? Is blocking used (what size) or minimisation or some other technical process? There are many different types of cancer diagnoses. It would be impossible to stratify on each specific diagnosis. How are ‘categories’ of diagnoses created. Specific details are required. Is randomisation stratified by study centre? Why not?

Our response:
We added further details with regard to the randomization procedure in the method section. We stratified for the most common cancer types however do not perform a randomisation by centre as the contribution of the various centres with regard to patient recruitment is not necessarily related to the size and case load of the participating centres.

Reviewer’s report:
3. On page 9, please provide additional details regarding how the ‘study nurse receives information concerning the allocation of patients’ such that the reader can determine whether allocation concealment is indeed maintained. Is the study centre phoned and baseline randomisation information recorded? Is a web site used? Are sequentially numbered opaque sealed envelopes used.
Our response:
After the inclusion of a patient in the trial and the baseline assessment, the study nurse receives information concerning the allocation of patients to the intervention or control arm by sequentially numbered opaque sealed envelopes. This information is now provided in the method section.

Reviewer’s report:
4. Please provide a basic outline of your analytic plan. You must indicate all variables what will be considered for baseline balance, how balance will be assessed and what will be done in the presence of imbalance.

Our response:
We agree with the reviewer and added an analytical plan in the methods section.