Author's response to reviews

Title: The use of Carer Assisted Adherence Therapy for people with Parkinson's disease and their carers (CAAT-PARK): study protocol for a randomised controlled trial

Authors:

David J Daley (d.daley@uea.ac.uk)
Katherine HO Deane (k.deane@uea.ac.uk)
Richard J Gray (richard.gray@uea.ac.uk)
Paul F Worth (paul.worth@nnuh.nhs.uk)
Allan B Clark (allan.clark@uea.ac.uk)
Kanagasabesan Sabanathan (kamax.sabanathan@nnuh.nhs.uk)
Michael Pfeil (m.pfeil@uea.ac.uk)
Phyo K Myint (phyo.k.myint@uea.ac.uk)

Version: 3 Date: 26 September 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
22\textsuperscript{nd} September 2011

Editors BMC Journal Trials

Subject: Submission of Research Methodology (Study Protocol) paper

Dear Editorial Board Members,

We would like to submit an article entitled “The use of Carer Assisted Adherence Therapy for people with Parkinson’s disease and their carers (CAAT-PARK): a randomised controlled trial” to be considered for publication in BMC Journal Trials.

In this paper, we describe an innovative study methodology aimed at determining whether an experimental treatment, which has been showed to be effective in other patient populations, is beneficial for improving adherence to medication and self-reported quality of life in people with Parkinson’s disease.

This study will provide clinical data regarding the efficacy of our novel intervention in a Parkinson’s disease sample. The findings of this study will form the basis for future randomised controlled trials by identifying the effectiveness and overall acceptability of carer assisted adherence therapy in a Parkinson’s disease cohort. Additional, this study will provide further evidence concerning the prevalence and severity of medication non-adherence in people with Parkinson’s disease.

If CAAT-PARK demonstrates efficacy for improving medication adherence and quality of life in people with Parkinson’s disease, health professionals will be able to incorporate the intervention into their routine practice with minimal training. As this has yet to be investigated, we intend to establish the effectiveness of this novel intervention for people with Parkinson’s disease and their spouse/carers in this trial. This study will provide new knowledge about the effectiveness of optimising the efficacy of anti-parkinsonian agents using a targeted therapy (CAAT-PARK).

We believe this article is relevant and of interest to the readership of the BMC Journal Trials. There are no competing interests to declare.

Yours sincerely,

David James Daley (Corresponding author)