Author's response to reviews

Title: Patient directed self management of pain (PaDSMaP) compared to treatment as usual following total knee replacement: study protocol for a randomised controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sirs

Re: A randomised controlled trial of patient directed self management of pain (PaDSMaP) compared to treatment as usual following total knee replacement

Thank you for the e-mail dated 4th October 2012 with the reviewers’ comments. We would like to thank the reviewers for their time and expertise. To answer each point in turn:

1. There is reference to the WHO ladder. This was initiated for cancer pain not acute pain and has been criticised for not including adjuvant analgesics. A brief comment covering this should be added.
   Response
   Added to Pg3
   • Step three - Strong opioids (e.g. Morphine, Oramorph) with or without non-opioid.

Although the WHO pain control ladder was originally designed for chronic cancer pain, its principles have since been applied to acute pain and have been adapted to accommodate modern analgesics including adjuvant analgesics. (Vargas-Scaffer 2010).


2. Oxycontine is mis-spelt it should be Oxycontin
   Response
   Apologies – changed.

3. Gabapentin is included in the regimen but there is no evidence of an effect in acute pain. A comment on the rationale for its use would be helpful
   Response
   Added to Pg 14.
   • Gabapentin 300mg twice a day (bd) for 5 days (Gabapentin is an opioid-sparing medication and reduces opioid-related side effects). (Tiippana 2007).


The actual text changes have been highlighted in yellow in the revised manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

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