Reviewer's report

Title: Tongue pressure profile training for dysphagia post stroke (TPPT): Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 27 February 2013

Reviewer: Erik Cobo

Reviewer's report:

1) Major compulsory recommendations:
   a. Please note that your actual sample size rationale don’t report the desired power. On the other side, the “expected” X2 and P values are meaningless.
   b. Sample Size rationale should link to main statistical analysis. As your SS is based on a 2x2 table with an X2 test, the same analysis should be repeated as the main one. If you decide to change the main analysis, you should guarantee that power is preserved.
   c. Main statistical analysis should provide readers an effect size measure. For example, beside your 2x2 table, you may choose an odds ratio that could be estimated through a logistic regression (adjusted or not by baseline prognostic factors).
   d. If you prefer quantitative outcomes, please note that, in order to be able to make sensible choices, future users of the intervention should be able to understand the treatment effect estimate.

2) Minor recommendations:
   a. As any clinical trial is ‘prospective’, this term could be avoided. [Please note that neither Consort, nor Strobe recommends the terms prospective and retrospective.]
   b. If you would like to explore any effect on any outcome, please note that you may decide to classify your trial as exploratory, at least for those secondary outcomes.
   c. You will find examples of good reporting (SS rationale, main effect, statistical analysis, etc.) in the CONSORT statement.