Reviewer’s report

Title: Whole body vibration exercise for chronic low back pain: study protocol for a single blind randomised controlled trial

Version: 3
Date: 27 January 2014

Reviewer: Kelli Allen

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting study, and the authors have done a good job of articulating the importance and novelty of the project. My comments are mostly grammatical. The following are specific areas to correct, but overall it would be helpful for the manuscript to have a careful grammatical review.

Minor Essential Revisions

Background
1. Sentence “Because chronic LBP…” has a grammatical issue.
2. Exercise therapy…. Change “on relieving” to “for reliving,” and consider changing “practice” to “guidelines,”
3. During the past decade….change “is becoming” to “has become.”
4. There are two reasons… it’s not quite clear what this means. Is this supposed to indicate there are two reasons the WBV may be useful for alleviating pain…?
5. 4th paragraph, last sentence – grammatical issue 6. 5th paragraph, 1st sentence – consider changing “determination of the WBV…” to “that the determination of the effectiveness of WBV…”

Study Design
1. Combine 2nd and 3rd sentences
2. 2nd paragraph, 1st sentence – correct “will accepted.”
3. In the 2nd paragraph, it would be helpful to specify that the intervention is 3 months and then there is an inactive 3 month period. This is stated later in the manuscript but would be helpful if stated earlier, with the study design.

Ethical considerations
1. Here and elsewhere in the document, do not begin a sentence with “And.”

Interventions
1. 1st sentence should end at “3 months” or put an “and” before the next phrase.
2. Change “cooling down” to “cool down.”
3. What does “to eliminate any effect of vibrations” mean?

Outcome measures
1. Pain VAS – grammatical error in sentence beginning, “This uses”
2. Back function “was” - change to “will be.” Also, throughout the manuscript, check verbs for tense and make consistent. Some are present, some past, and some are future tense.

3. What does “which references study of Fontana…” mean? Also a grammar error in this sentence.

4. What does “subjects are asked for prone position” mean? May be a grammar error.

Discussion

1. 2nd sentence, change “dispute” to “disputed.”

2. Grammar error in sentence beginning “And we think…”

3. 2nd paragraph, what does “based on the point” mean, and in what way will this study “reduce other bias?”

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.