Author's response to reviews

Title: Tai Chi-based exercise program provided via telerehabilitation compared to home visits in a post-stroke population who have returned home without intensive rehabilitation: a randomized, non-inferiority clinical trial

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Professors Doug Altman, Curt Furberg, Jeremy Grimshaw
Editors-in-chief Trials

Dear Prs. Altman, Furberg, Grimshaw,

We are pleased to submit our manuscript entitled “Tai Chi-based exercise program provided via telerehabilitation compared to home visits in a post-stroke population who have returned home without intensive rehabilitation: a randomized, non-inferiority clinical trial” for consideration as a protocol article in Trials journal. This paper is the protocol for a multisite randomized controlled trial that explores the non-inferiority of a post-stroke Tai Chi based exercise program via telerehabilitation. This project included 3 cities in the province of Quebec and Ontario.

We believe that our manuscript is relevant in the Trials journal because of its great visibility with an international and interprofessional audience of health care professionals ensuring a maximum exposure of our work. We consider that this protocol contains a great deal of valuable information for healthcare professionals such as doctors, physical therapists and occupational therapists with regard to rehabilitation following a stroke with patients with mild to moderate balance impairment. Given the use of telerehabilitation, this protocol presents a new way of offering rehabilitation services to this population, who often can not benefit from them because of their low accessibility.

This paper has not been published in any other journal. The authors declare that they have no competing interests. The study protocol has been approved by the ethical committee of each recruitment site. The study protocol was also subjected to an external peer reviewing system via the funding body, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Both proofs of ethics approval and funding are attached to this submission form. Participants’ recruitment began in September 2013.

Thank you in advance for considering this article for publication in your journal.

Yours truly,

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