Reviewer’s report

Title: Characteristics of study subjects willing to participate in a randomized controlled behavioral clinical trial using home-based personal computers and a webcam

Version: 4 Date: 24 June 2014

Reviewer: sara J czaja

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Was there any protocol to ensure that the contents of the survey would be understood by the participants especially those recruited from the Oregon Alzheimer’s Disease Center (OADC) volunteer list?

2. It would be helpful if more information was provided about the retirement communities and senior centers that were targeted for the survey distribution. For example, were these communities ethnically diverse?

3. How many respondents were from the OADC and how were these respondents distributed across the four groups? Why was this chosen as a source of recruitment? Did this sample include participants with MCI?

4. Was any information gathered on why individuals were not interested in participating in the study such as time commitment; lack of interest in using computers, etc. It would seem that understanding this issue would provide important information for future trials.

5. The discussion of the statistical model is a bit confusing the authors state that they used multinomial logit models with the last group as a reference group and the other two groups as outcomes – there were four groups – unless I misunderstand this – the statement in the manuscript implies that they used three groups in the analysis.

6. Were any interactions among the variables analyzed? Generally the discussion of the analysis is a bit simplistic.

7. Was there any differential response rate according to geographic area, community or senior center? Were there any differences in response according to living arrangement or ethnicity of the participant?

8. The authors need to do a better job of discussing the significance/implications of their findings.

9. The discussion of the limitations of the study need to be expanded – e.g., the limitations of the survey with respect to information gathered?

Minor Revisions:
1. In terms of the actual study – were the participants trained to use the technology?

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests.