Author's response to reviews

Title: The potential of Virtual Reality as anxiety management tool: a randomized controlled study in a sample of patients affected by Generalized Anxiety Disorder

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To:  
Doug Altman; Curt Furberg; Jeremy Grimshaw; Peter Rothwell  
Editors in Chief  
Trials  

Milan,  
04-03-08  

Re.: Revised manuscript  

Dear Editors,  

We would like to resubmit the manuscript entitled: “The potential of Virtual Reality as anxiety management tool: a randomised controlled study in a sample of patients affected by Generalized Anxiety Disorder” to the Trials Journal. Here, you can find our responses to the Reviewer:  

1) The more important one concerns the very brief Sample Size section (page 13). This section should contain information as to what factors entered into the choice of 15 participants in each group. How was that number arrived at?  

We have removed the section “Sample size” having specified the number of subjects that will participate in the study in the session “Subjects” (pag 7-8). We have also explained that the number of participants has been defined following the indications obtained using the Power analysis.  

“A power analysis was conducted in order to evaluate the number of patients needed to detect a significant difference (Effect size $f \geq 0.40$) between the three groups (VR, non VR and WL) with a power of 0.90. The analysis showed a necessary total sample size of 75, with $\alpha = 0.5$, two-tailed.” (pag 8).  

2) The second comment is that this manuscript is somewhat long. Because it is an electronic publication, use of pages is not the issue it would be in a print publication. However, there is considerable (perhaps too much) detail in both the Hardware section (pages 13-14) and the Clinical Protocol section (pages 15-19). I do not feel strongly about this second comment, however, particularly as figures 3 and 4, which would be part of the Clinical Protocol section, are interesting.  

Both the sessions have been reduced (see text for details)  

We hope that the paper will be now suited for publication in the Trials Journal and we will look forward for your final answer.  

Yours sincerely,  

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