Reviewer’s report

Title: Aqua walking as an alternative exercise modality during cardiac rehabilitation for coronary artery disease in older patients with lower extremity osteoarthritis

Version: 0 Date: 23 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Elisabetta Tonet

Reviewer's report:

This study examines the effect of aqua-walking versus traditional over-ground walking on coronary artery disease (CAD) and cardiorespiratory fitness in older adults with osteoarthritis in the lower extremity and it demonstrates that aqua-walking is a feasible alternative exercise modality in this kind of patients. Some observations:

- In Methods section (line 13) it is declared that study patients had undergone PCI for CAD. In Discussion section (line 28) it is declared that this is the first study to demonstrate the benefits of AW in patients treated with PCI or at risk for CAD. So, have you considered rehabilitation in secondary or also in primary prevention?

- How long after PCI have you started physical activity sessions?

- Were TW-patients OA-patients? There seems to be a contradiction between Methods section and Limitation section about randomized patients. Could you please explain this aspect more clearly?

- There seems to be another contradiction between Results and Discussion sections: in the first one it is declared that in the study population there was a male dominancy; in the second one (line 28) population is said to be female. Could you please explain this point more clearly?

- Have you any data about the comparison of study patients VO2 peak value and predetermined VO2 peak value?

- It is known that VO2 peak is a parameter that has interpretative limits related to the fact that it can be very different from VO2 max in non-maximal tests. Have you any data on anaerobic threshold?

- What about perceived exercise intensity during physical activity sessions? Have you used any scale such as the Borg scale?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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