Reviewer's report

Title: Feasibility and effects of applying stochastic resonance whole-body vibration on untrained elderly: A randomized crossover pilot study

Version: 2  Date: 16 November 2014

Reviewer: Ellen Freiberger

Reviewer's report:

General comments
The authors investigated into the feasibility and long-term impact of stochastic resonance whole-body vibration (SR-WBV) on static and dynamic balance and reaction time among elderly individuals. The authors investigate into an interesting approach to reach a population who are most at risk of losing functional status. Although the article is already in a very good shape some issues remain before the manuscript is ready for publication. the authors are to congratulate for this study from which they are able to calculate power and sample size for future research.

Major topic:
1. In the background section (3rd paragraph) the term “storastic resonanz WB” should be explained with regard to what are the differences to WBEMS? Not every reader will be familiar with differences in this area and if the terms are not explained there will - for the future - arise more confusion with regard to the different WBEMS or storastic resonanz WB. Please clarify the difference between the two methods.

2. The study was conducted in “a home-for-the-aged” (method section 1st paragraph). The authors should explain in short additional sentence if the participants would fall more into the nursing home setting paradigm or more into the community-dwelling setting. This information would be important for conducting later interventions with the new method. The title might take the functional limitation of the participants into account.

3. In the result section (recruitment, adherence paragraph) the authors reported two drop-outs due to knee problems. Were these knee problems related to the training? Please comment.

Minor comments
1. None

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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 competing interests.