Author's response to reviews

Title: The effects of observation of walking in a living room environment, on physical, cognitive, and quality of life related outcomes in older adults with dementia: a study protocol of a randomized controlled trial

Authors:

Johanna G Douma (j.g.douma@vu.nl)
Karin M Volkers (k.m.volkers@vu.nl)
Pieter J Vuijk (p.j.vuijk@vu.nl)
Marieke H Sonneveld (M.H.Sonneveld@tudelft.nl)
Richard HM Goossens (R.H.M.Goossens@tudelft.nl)
Erik JA Scherder (eja.scherder@vu.nl)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Mangiameli,

Please find enclosed our revision of the protocol paper, entitled

‘The effects of observation of walking in a living room environment, on physical, cognitive, and quality of life related outcomes in older adults with dementia: a study protocol of a randomized controlled trial’.

Thank you for your interest in our paper. We appreciate the time and effort you and reviewer Jorunn Helbostad put into reading the paper, and are very grateful for the comments we received.

We revised the protocol paper based on the reviewer’s comments, and expect to have improved the manuscript with these adoptions. The revisions in the paper are visible in red ink, except for the changes in reference numbering. In addition, below we give a point-by-point response to the concerns by the reviewer.

Reviewer’s major compulsory revisions:

*Reviewer*: “the theory behind the study is interesting, but it is unclear from the introduction whether watching movements is meant to motivate to move or improve control of movements.”

*Reply*: As this information concerns our primary hypothesis, it is indeed of great importance that this information is clear to the readership. We added new (page 6, line 141-142) and clarificatory (page 7, line 152-160) information in the Introduction section.

*Reviewer*: “Rest-activity rythm is assessed by variables derived from activiy monitoring. Litte information on whether these variables represent rest activity rythm is given.”

*Reply*: Based on your remark we added explanatory information on the parameters used to determine the rest-activity rhythm in the Methods/Design section under the heading ‘Rest-activity rhythm’ (page 21, line 455-464). We consequently made an adaption to the text in the Methods/Design section under the heading ‘Physical activity’ (page 14, line 315 to page 15, line 316).
We hope that the adaptations have clarified the content of the paper, and that this revised protocol paper is suitable for publication in *BMC Geriatrics*.

We look forward to your decision.

Yours sincerely,

Gerdine Douma, MSc.

PhD Student
Department of Clinical Neuropsychology
VU University Amsterdam
Van der Boechorststraat 1
1081 BT Amsterdam
The Netherlands
+31 20 59 88955
j.g.douma@vu.nl