Reviewer’s report

Title: What works in falls prevention in Asia: A systematic review and Meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.

Version: 0 Date: 08 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Michele Callisaya

Reviewer’s report:

Strengths:

This is a really interesting and novel topic.

The authors have comprehensively included RCT from Asia.

The paragraph in the discussion about the countries in Asia differing in culture and environment is an important limitation.

I have made some suggestions to hopefully strengthen the article

Major

I feel an opportunity has been missed in the discussion to highlight the specifics of what needs to be done in Asia to address unique or culturally specific falls-risk factors. Although the authors have made suggestions I feel they lack specifics. Most trials use similar interventions to those in Western countries. Do the authors conclude that more trials of similar interventions should be done or should there be different trials addressing culturally specific risk factors. The risk factors identified from qualitative and observational studies in Asia, that are different to Western countries, may provide important targets. A text box, table, or paragraph discussing/listing these specific factors would help drive the field forward. For example more detail on the specifics of types of environmental modifications, exercise, health service delivery other etc that are specific to Asia that the authors conclude would be important to test would help guide in designing new trials.

Other suggestions/comments

* Was the review registered?

* How many studies were not in English that were not included (if possible to determine)

* How many studies were excluded due to differences in characteristics at baseline?
* Pg 10 line 18 - check readability of the sentence

Results

* Could an extra column be added to table 1 so that it is easy to compare which interventions were successful in Asia in comparison to the Cochrane review?

* Page 13 - the paper referenced by Sherrington has been updated in 2016 (Exercise to prevent falls in older adults: an updated systematic review and meta-analysis). The new reference should be used and reference to it updated.

* Could a meta-analysis of results for Tai Chi be performed?

* P14 line 53-56 - this sentence is not quite clear as to whether the Cochrane review only referred to the Lin paper or the type of intervention as a whole.

* The results for the meta-analysis could be placed under the individual headings rather than in a separate meta-analysis section.

Discussion

* Was there any strong evidence that some interventions did not work?

* Was there any evidence that adherence was higher to interventions such as Tai Chi between Asian and Western countries?

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

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**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:

Acceptable

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