Reviewer’s report

Title: Chair based exercise in community settings: A cluster randomised feasibility study

Version: 0 Date: 11 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Ing-Mari Dohrn

Reviewer’s report:

This study was a three armed, cluster randomized controlled trial aiming to examine the acceptability, feasibility and tolerability of a chair based exercise intervention for older adults with mobility limitations, delivered in day centers, care homes, and community groups. There were two control groups: Group reminiscence therapy and usual care. Additional aims were to explore outcome assessment and ascertaining data for economic evaluation.

The topic of the paper is of clinical relevance, although the generalizability in other contexts may be somewhat limited. The paper is well structured and easy to read, but some essential revisions are needed.

Comments to authors:

1. Please explain the abbreviation MRC on line 39 in the Background section.

2. Please refer to Table 3 and 4 as appropriate in the text.

3. I’m not sure it is necessary to have ascertaining data for economic evaluation as an aim. Especially since there is no follow up on this aim in the results or discussion. Isn’t the aim to explore outcome assessment and ascertaining data for evaluation over all?

4. It would be interesting to know reasons for persons not attending center anymore. Is it because their health was getting better or worse? Could this explain the discrepancy in that say you identified people who were appropriate for the intervention and that health status was a barrier to engagement and progression of the exercise programme - still, you report that several participants expressed a preference to progressing to standing and walking and were disappointed that there were no walking program.

5. You report that you had problems with the recruitment of both centres and older people, and that participants attending once a week were not willing to attend an additional session. It would be interested to know how the program was presented, and if you think you could have used more motivational skills?

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.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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