Author’s response to reviews

Title: Maintenance of Occupational Therapy (OT) for dementia: Protocol of a multi-center, randomized controlled and pragmatic trial

Authors:

Clément Pimouguet (clement.pimouguet@u-bordeaux.fr)

Sitta Rémi (remi.sitta@u-bordeaux.fr)

Wittwer Jérôme (jerome.wittwer@u-bordeaux.fr)

Hayes Nathalie (nathalie.hayes@chu-bordeaux.fr)

Petit-Monéger Aurélie (aurelie.petit-moneger@u-bordeaux.fr)

Dartigues Jean-François (jean-francois.dartigues@u-bordeaux.fr)

Helmer Catherine (catherine.helmer@u-bordeaux.fr)

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This trial is an ongoing trial since we are currently recruiting patients. No other paper concerning this topic based on our data was submitted elsewhere. All the authors declared no conflict of interest or financial disclosure related to that work.

We have tried to answer point by point to each request:

1) Please include trial registration information in the Abstract field of the online submission form.

It has been added

2) Please note that we cannot publish the ‘box’ format that you have in your methods. Please present the data either within the text of the manuscript or as a table according to BMC Guidelines
3) Please describe the consent procedure for patients that are unable to provide written consent in the Declarations section.

The following sentence has been added in the declarations section “Patients who were not able to provide their written consent were not included in the study”

4) Please reformat and complete the Declarations section according to BMC Geriatrics guidelines

The declarations section has been reformatted and completed

5) Please remove the Figure 1 title and legend from the figure file and list in a separate section following the References.

Figure 1 title has been removed from the figure file and has been added after references section

6) A study is considered to be externally funded if the authors have been awarded a grant for the study by a major funding body (e.g. governmental funding/award from a charitable foundation). If a study has not received external funding, then the study protocol will be sent for peer-review with a member of our Editorial Board. If a study has received funding/assistance from a commercial organization, this should be clearly stated in the ‘competing interests’ section of your manuscript, and the study protocol will be sent for peer-review by a member of our Editorial Board. Can you please confirm whether your study protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body.

We confirm that MathéoAlz is a externally funded trial that was peer-reviewed by the funding body.

7) It has come to our attention that throughout the manuscript there is significant text overlap with other publications (e.g. Blom et al. 2013, Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of an internet intervention for family caregivers of people with dementia: design of a randomized controlled trial), and which is particularly evident in the Discussion section. While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, your manuscript
must be original work in your own words. Please ensure that you check the manuscript for textual overlap, including from your own published work, and re-write such sections accordingly.

We have re-written parts of the manuscript, amendments have been underlined in the text.