Author’s response to reviews

Title: Improvements in lower-limb muscle strength and foot pressure distribution with foot care in frail elderly adults: A randomized controlled trial from Japan

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[Jan. 21, 2019]

Tovah Honor Aronin
Editor
BMC Geriatrics

Dear Editor:

We wish to re-submit the manuscript titled “Improvements in lower-limb muscle strength and foot pressure distribution with foot care in frail elderly adults: a randomized controlled trial from Japan.” The manuscript ID is BGTC-D-18-00292.
We are grateful for your comments and useful suggestions, which have helped us improve our paper. We have incorporated all your comments into the revised version of our paper. The responses to all comments have been prepared and given below.

I look forward to working with you and the reviewers to move this manuscript closer to publication in BMC Geriatrics.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
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Comment1
If your trial registration number is now available please add this to the manuscript (end of the abstract - please add the date of registration and keep in the text saying retrospective registration).

Response 1
We have added the trial registration to the end of the abstract (page 3, line 60).

Trial registration: University hospital Medical Information Network- Clinical Trials (UMIN-CTR) with the number: UMIN000034742. Registration date: 11/01/2018.
Comment 2
Please provide the full name of the ethics committee in the Ethics approval and consent to participate section.

Response 2
The ethics approval and consent to participate section has been revised to include the ethics committee’s full name (page 22, line 428).

The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki, and the protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of Tokyo Healthcare University (KYO25-2).

Comment 3
However, I have noticed that the previous study was titled as a Case control study while the revised version is labelled as randomized controlled trial. These are two different study designs and I wonder what made the authors change the study design in the revised version.

If this is a RCT then the authors should clearly mention how was the randomization done, how was the allocation concealment ensured and whether any blinding was done (and how was it done)

Response 3
Thank you for your comment. Another reviewer had suggested that we change our paper’s subtitle from case control study to randomized controlled trials. We have referred to the CONSORT statement for randomized controlled trials while preparing our manuscript.

Comment 4
If improvements to the English language within your manuscript have been requested, you should have your manuscript reviewed by someone who is fluent in English. If you would like professional help in revising this manuscript, you can use any reputable English language editing service. We can recommend our affiliates Nature Research Editing Service (http://bit.ly/NRES_BS) and American Journal Experts (http://bit.ly/AJE_BS) for help with
English usage. Please note that use of an editing service is neither a requirement nor a guarantee of publication. Free assistance is available from our English language tutorial (https://www.springer.com/gb/authors-editors/authorandreviewertutorials/writinginenglish) and our Writing resources (http://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/writing-resources). These cover common mistakes that occur when writing in English.

Response4

We have submitted our manuscript for editing by a professional editing firm (Editage). The editing certificate has been attached.