Author’s response to reviews

Title: Guided Self-rehabilitation Contract vs conventional therapy in chronic stroke-induced hemiparesis: NEURORESTORE, a multicenter randomized controlled trial

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Author’s response to reviews:

Re: ID NURL-D-18-00707

Dear Dr. Ragen,

We thank you for your questions and comments. Please find our responses below.

We hope that our manuscript now meets the requirements for publication in BMC Neurology. If we can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

We very much look forward to receiving your response.

Kind regards,
Editorial board comments:

1. Clarification of Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation

Before we can proceed with your submission, can you please forward copies of all ethical approval and funding approval providing translated versions of the relevant parts. At the moment it is unclear how long the approval and funding lasts. These documents should be sent as email attachments to the following email address, BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com. Please DO NOT upload these documents as additional files in the submission system.

Response: Copies of ethical approval (2 copies) and funding approval (1 copy) have been sent through an e-mail to jesame.guzman@springernature.com (October 16, 2018 at 1.57pm) as required by the journal following our first submission. The relevant parts of these files were translated in English. An e-mail will be sent to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com, uploading these documents.

As specified in one of the translated parts, the IRB approval lasts until the end of the study. Please find the translated part below:

The authorization mentioned in the article L. 1123-8 of the Public Health French code is given for the clinical trial cited above. This authorization is valid for the entire duration of the study from the date of this decision.

Regarding the funding approval, credits have been given for the study. The commitment appropriation has been paid out over a three year period between 2013 and 2015 (a file specifying this plan has been uploaded.

You can find below the translation part:

First document: The DIRCD has just received the results established from ‘PHRC National 2010”, officially communicated from the Ministry of the Health and Sports.

I have the pleasure to confirm that, in the context of the Hospital Programme of Clinical Research 2010 National category, your project has been accepted and funded by the Ministry of the Health and Sports, for an amount of 476 364 euros….

Second document: I confirm that the funding of 476 364 euros will be paid out over a 36-month period in the context of “PHRC National 2010”for the project “Comparison of two physical treatments in patients with hemiparesis, beyond a year after stroke”.

2. Funding

Can you please confirm whether your study proposal underwent independent peer-review. Under usual circumstances 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?

Response: As mentioned in the cover letter of the previous submission, this study has been awarded governmental funding by the Ministry of Health and Sports. This has now been specified in the Declarations section of the manuscript. In this process, the study protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body.

3. Study status

The protocol must be for a study that is ongoing. An ‘ongoing’ study is defined as one where the investigators are still collecting, or analyzing data. Can you please confirm what stage your study is currently at?

Response: As mentioned in the cover letter of the previous submission, the study is ongoing, the current status is: final stages of data collection. Data analysis will be starting in 2019. This has now been specified in the Declarations section of the manuscript.

4. Please read Submission Guidelines carefully to make sure the formatting, section order, and relevant information are all correct. https://bmcpsychiatry.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/study-protocol

Response: The section order and the details in each section of the Declarations section have been revised and now meet the formatting, section order, and provide the required information.