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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Re: ID NURL-D-18-00707

Dear Dr. Byrne and Dr. Ragen,

We thank you for your questions and comments.

Please find our responses below. We have modified the manuscript, tables and figures based on these recommendations.

All changes in the document are tracked using the Word Track Changes function and you can also see a ‘clean’ version of the revised document. Both clean and marked copies of the revised manuscript have been uploaded.
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:

Your manuscript "Guided Self-rehabilitation Contract vs conventional therapy in chronic stroke-induced hemiparesis: NEURORESTORE, a multicenter randomized controlled trial" (NURL-D-18-00707R1) has been assessed. Based on these reports, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Neurology, once you have carried out some essential revisions, which are below.

We request that a point-by-point response letter accompanies your revised manuscript. This letter must provide a detailed response to each editorial point raised, describing what amendments have been made to the manuscript text and where these can be found (e.g. Methods section, line 12, page 5). If you disagree with any comments raised, please provide a detailed rebuttal to help explain and justify your decision.

Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style, which can be found at the Submission Guidelines on the journal homepage.

Editor Comments:

1) Thank you for submitting ethical proof from CPP Ile-de-France VI. Can you please confirm whether this ethical approval covers all sites that are involved in this study.

Response: This ethical approval covers all of the six centers of the NEURORESTORE trial.

2) Please remove the figure titles embedded within the figures and re-upload the corrected versions. All figure titles/legends should be placed at the end of the main manuscript, after the References, and not within any of the figure files. Please upload each Figure and Table individually, as separate files.

Response: Every figure title has been removed from the figure file. Each Table and Figure has been uploaded individually, as a separated file. All figure titles/legends have been placed at the end of the main manuscript, after the References.
3) Please include the date of registration of the trial along with the registration number.

Response: The date of registration of the trial has been included along with the registration number, in the Abstract section page 4, line 63, and in the Methods section (Ethical approval and trial registration), page 8, line 141.

4) Please move the “Abbreviations” to after the Discussion and before the Declarations.

Response: The “Abbreviations” section has been moved as recommended.

5) Under the heading “Ethics approval and consent to participate”, please correct the sentence starting “The latter…”. In addition, please remove the clinicaltrials.gov information from this section.

Response: The sentence under the heading “Ethics approval and consent to participate” has been corrected and the clinicaltrials.gov information has been removed from this section.

6) Please remove the section “Study Status”.

Response: The section “Study Status” has been removed.

7) Please state whether the images in Figures 2-3 have been taken from other sources. Please acknowledge the source in the figure legend, and if it is under copyright, also state the written permission given to use and adapt it.

Response: Figure 2 has been conceived by the authors but the photographs have been made by IPSEN.

Figure 3 and its photographs have been made by the authors themselves, except from the cover of the book "Guided Self-rehabilitation Contract in Spastic Paresis", which is from Adis, at Springer Healthcare.

The source has been acknowledged in each figure legend, and “the written permission given to use and adapt it” statement has been added in the legend of Figure 2.