Reviewer’s report

Title: Optimising motor learning in infants at high risk of cerebral palsy: a pilot study

Version: 2 Date: 28 October 2014

Reviewer: Antonia A Gómez Conesa

Reviewer’s report:

This study adds significant information on the motor development of infants at high risk of Cerebral Palsy, highlighting the important role of family and the environment in which the child develops to achieve a normalized development. However, there are a number of issues that need to be clarified and corrected before accepting its publication.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Abstract

Line 49. “was o determine…” Please, change the sentence.

Line 56,57. “individualised, variable…” Please clarify the sentence.

Line 64. “Conclusion”. To replace Conclusions.

Line 68. Revise “environmental enrichment in MeSH. If necessary, substitute another keyword.


The Background includes a summary of a search of the literature to indicate why this study was necessary and what it aimed to contribute to the field. The section ends with a brief statement of what is being reported in the article.

METHODS

The methods section includes the design of the study, the setting, the type of participants or materials involved a clear description of all interventions and comparisons, and the type of analysis used.


Line 248. “2. Environmental Enrichment”… It is 3, the third part in the GAME. The second part is Parent Education. Please, correct the line.

Line 258: “(b) optimising sleep hygiene”… What does the sentence mean? Please clarify. To cite an example.
Line 309. “An improvements of two or more is regarded…” An improvements of two or more what? ¿points? ¿scores? Please clarify.

Line 326. “sub scales”. Please, correct the sentence: subscales or sub-scales.

Statistical analysis.

Line 349,350. “Results were presented as between group differences with 95% confidence intervals” Place this phrase at the end of paragraph.

Add the Cohen`s criteria. You mentioned in one of the results.

Results

Enter a heading for each outcome measure (PDSM-2, COPM, DASS-21, Logbook…). This would structure better this section.

Line 392. “to aide..” Please correct the verb.

Line 397. “DASS 21 scores were calculated for…” Please, to place this phrase below and in a different paragraph.

Discussion.

Line 423,425. “(60.17, SD= 6.62); (mean score 50.71, SD= 18.33)” Please, not to repeat the results of the means.

Line 427-428. “A larger, adequately powered trial is required to validate these findings.” This phase would be better in Conclusions.

Line 445-446. “Wang et al (2006) suggested a change of more than 9 raw score points on the PDMS -2 may be clinically significant18 amongst toddlers”. Please to correct the reference according to BMC Pediatrics style.

Why use raw scores in PDSM-2 and not the standard scores or equivalent scores? Please clarify.

Paragraph 458-466. Why the information about the months in which the infants acquire the different motor milestones during the first year of age was not included in Parent Education? The results in COPM could be more specific. Please, clarify.

Line 498. “and affect ability to carryout HPs.” Please, modify the sentence.

Line 522. “may have introduced observer bias.” Please, modify the sentence.

References.

Please, revise the references according to BMC Pediatrics style.

Figure 1.
Please, to place the title below the figure.

Table 2.

Please, to place the phrase “* Indicates statistically significant” below the table.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests