Author's response to reviews

Title: The effects of a physical activity counseling program after an exacerbation in COPD: a randomized controlled pilot study.

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Version: 2 Date: 14 January 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Enclosed you will find the article entitled ‘The effects of a physical activity counseling program after an exacerbation in patients with COPD: a randomized controlled pilot study’ by M. Hornikx, H. Demeyer, CA. Camillo, W. Janssens and T. Troosters.

We would like to submit this article for publication in BMC Pulmonary Medicine. This article is not published nor under consideration elsewhere.

Physical inactivity is typically diminished during a hospitalization for a severe exacerbation. Since the negative health benefits of physical inactivity, interventions to promote physical activity after hospital discharge could be beneficial. In stable patients with COPD, physical activity counseling and real-time feedback seems promising. It was a logical step to investigate this type of intervention immediately after hospitalization for an exacerbation. The concept of counseling with real-time feedback in this cohort of patients is new and might provide a solution for the severe inactivity in patients after an exacerbation. We acknowledge the pilot status of the data, nevertheless we feel that this work might add to a better treatment in patients after an exacerbation.

All the authors have read and approved the content of the article and declare not having any potential competing interests.

We sincerely hope the Journal enjoys reading our work, and we are looking forward to receiving your feedback.

On behalf of all authors,

Yours sincerely,

Thierry Troosters, corresponding author