Reviewer’s report

Title: Pulmonary Rehabilitation after exacerbation of bronchiectasis: a pilot randomized controlled trial

Version: 0 Date: 25 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Samantha Harrison

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written manuscript describing an interesting pilot trial. Such a study is difficult to perform prospectively and this is a challenging population to engage in active intervention.

Background

Pg 1, line 46 - PR has been found to be very successful for people who complete following an exacerbation of COPD but attendance rates are very poor. Please provide a comment on this.

Reference is made to the study by Greening et al 2014. Please add more details. Are you saying that 20/389 patients enrolled had bronchiectasis? Currently this is not clear.

If only 5% (20/389) of people with respiratory disease are admitted to hospital with an exacerbation of bronchiectasis please provide a rationale for why we should be attending to this particular sub-population. I agree we should be providing focused care for people post-exacerbation of bronchiectasis but this needs to be made clear.

Methods

Please add pilot to the study design section.

If this was indeed a pilot study the primary aim should not be concerned with effectiveness. Rather the aim of a pilot study is to test the feasibility of an approach to be applied in a future larger trial. Please rephrase.

Did you monitor adherence to the 'homework' (unsupervised sessions)?

If PR program is 6weeks why are outcomes assessed at 8weeks rather than immediately following completion of the program?
Results

If this is a pilot study some of the main results should comment on recruitment rates, willingness to be randomised, adherence, time required to complete the assessment, safety.

Do you know how many took up maintenance programs?

Discussion

Did all those randomised to PR complete?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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