Reviewer’s report

Title: Developing a group intervention to manage fatigue in rheumatoid arthritis through modifying physical activity

Version: 1 Date: 10 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Adam Young

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Developing a group intervention to manage fatigue in rheumatoid arthritis through modifying physical activity

The aim of this research was to co-design an intervention to support self-management of RA fatigue by modifying physical activity. This manuscript describes a series of studies using mixed methodological approaches to co-design a fatigue management intervention focused on modifying PA. Development was based on existing evidence, preferences of RA patients and rheumatology healthcare professionals, and various practical issues. Having outlined the stages in development, the authors recommend further feasibility studies prior to intervention trials.

This is a well written & comprehensive manuscript. I have no major criticisms, although I think the authors should expand more on why & how this study is so important as a preliminary stage in the development of this intervention. I only have a few minor points to consider, mainly concerning shortening the manuscript:

1. Table 1 is not very informative & could be condensed into a basic summary in the text

2. The conclusion states 'The feasibility of further evaluation of this intervention now needs to be determined'. It would be helpful to know what advice the authors could offer in this respect

3. Are all these references really needed?
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.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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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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