Reviewer’s report

Title: Physiotherapist as primary assessor for patients with suspected knee osteoarthritis in primary care—A randomised controlled pragmatic study

Version: 0 Date: 07 May 2019

Reviewer: Donald Manlapaz

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to read and examine this manuscript. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the authors for a well-structured thesis, it was a pleasure to read. The thesis makes an important contribution to the work in this field.

There are a number of minor issues I would like to raise, listed below. I have put an asterisk against the more important issues.

Comments

1. It is good that the pragmatic study was registered.

2. Page 5 line 111: Please rephrase. I reckon that this statement needs a reference.

3. *Page 6: I was wondering why 38 years old and above. The authors need to justify this inclusion criteria aside from to increase the number of participants.

4. Page 6 line 154: double parenthesis "))"

5. Page 7: Sample size section. I suggest having a sample size subheading. You may transfer the paragraph from Data Analysis.

6. **Page 8: The Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI) recommends a set of outcome measures for Physical Performance Measure (PPM) like Timed Up and Go Test, Stairs, and 30 seconds sit to stand. Please justify why only one outcome measure?

7. Page 9 Line 217-219: Sample size

8. Page 9 Line 229-230: was?

9. The last two paragraphs of the discussion were stated well.
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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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