Author’s response to reviews

Title: Craniosacral Therapy for chronic pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick, dear Mrs. Solera:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to revise our manuscript titled “Craniosacral Therapy for chronic pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials” according to the reviewers’ comments. A point by point reply can be found below.

We still would be delighted to be considered for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

Yours sincerely.

Heidemarie Haller
On behalf of the authors.

Reply to the reviewers

Dear reviewers:

Thank you very much for your encouraging and valuable comments. We have made the following changes to improve the quality of the manuscript:

1. Expand the background section, justifying more broadly the implementation of this systematic review.
   -> HH: We have expanded the background section (page 3 line 68-69) by naming important prior systematic reviews on CST, which however all did not perform a meta-analysis and therefore could not test the robustness of the CST effects against the risk of systematic bias. For this reason, we decided to conduct this meta-analysis. In addition, we discussed similarities and differences to prior systematic
reviews in more detail on page 12f, line 321-329.

2. Specify in the risk of bias section because subgroups of analysis are not used.

-> HH: We have explained the reasons why we were not able to perform subgroup analyses on page 5, line 133-134. However, we tried to discuss possible effects of CST on different pain diagnoses on page 11, line 278-293.

Yours sincerely.
Heidemarie Haller, on behalf of the authors.