Reviewer’s report

Title: Pelvic floor muscle training in radical prostatectomy: A randomized controlled trial of the impacts on pelvic floor muscle function and urinary incontinence

Version: 0 Date: 02 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Kimberley Lyford

Reviewer's report:

Method

- Method was well described and easy to follow. I believe prescription is functionally specific and seems easy enough for patients to follow which is evident in the high adherence rate

- Although I question if 5 weeks pre-op timeframe and whether this would be able to be transferred into many practices.

- Method could have some more detail including more information about the 'usual care' education provided pre-op as this would vary for practice to practice. Standardising this for patients alone could positively affect post-operative outcomes.

Outcome measures

- Pad weight diary

- Were physical activity levels and fluid intake included in the 24hr record?

- Were subsequent test completed on the same day of the week to try include similar activity levels? Taking into consideration the working population could be sedentary during the week and very active on weekends.

Randomisation

- Question the randomisation based on date of initial attendance. Believe the following are factors that contribute significantly to PPI and therefore should be included in the randomisation process.

- Surgeon, did each surgeon included in the trial have even patients in control and intervention to eliminate surgical experience in post-operative recovery? How many surgeons were included in the trial?

- Were patient pre-operative physical activity levels taken into consideration
Statistics

- Statistical tests are appropriately used and well described, sample sizes are well defined

- Cannot locate the sample size calculation or rationale as to how this number was chosen.

- Identification of research restrictions/limitations, including discussion comparing level of nerve sparing procedures between control and intervention and how this could influence results.

Please confirm that you have included your review in the ‘Comments to Author’ box?

As a minimum standard, please include a few sentences that outline what you think are the authors’ hypothesis/objectives, their main results, and the conclusions drawn. Your report should constructively instruct authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable for publication, or provide detailed reasons as to why the manuscript does not fulfill our criteria for consideration. Please supply appropriate evidence using examples from the manuscript to substantiate your comments. Please break your comments into two bulleted or numbered sections: major and minor comments.

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Are the methods appropriate and well described to allow independent reproduction of experiments?
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Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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No

Are you able to assess the statistics?

- Are the statistical test(s) used in this study appropriate and well described?

- Is the exact sample size (n) reported for each experimental group/condition (as a number, not a range)?
- Are the description of any error bars and probability values appropriate?

- Are all error bars defined in the corresponding figure legends?

- Has a sample size calculation been included, or a description and rationale about how sample sizes were chosen?

Please can you confirm which of the following statements apply to your statistical assessment of the manuscript (Please include details of what the authors need to address in the ‘Comments to Author’ box):

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