Author's response to reviews

Title: Effects of an 18-week exercise programme started early during breast cancer treatment: a randomised controlled trial

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Version:3 Date:6 May 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
RESPONSE TO THE REVIEWERS: MS: 9464988601577244
Effects of an 18-week exercise programme started early during breast cancer treatment: a randomised controlled trial

We thank the editor and the reviewers for their comments on the updated version of our manuscript. We include a point-by-point response to their comments and the changes in the manuscript are highlighted with 'track changes'.

Editors’ comments:

1. Please include information about neoadjuvant chemotherapy in the manuscript as well as the cover letter (reviewer 1)
   Authors’ answer to comment 1:
   The information on neoadjuvant chemotherapy appears in the fourth paragraph of the results section. This has now also been added to our answer to reviewer 1 (see below).

2. The date of trial registration should be included at the end of the abstract (after the registration number)
   Authors’ answer to comment 2:
   This date (December 9th, 2009) has now been added at the end of the abstract.

3. Author contributions: please confirm whether all authors approved the final version of the manuscript for publication.
   Authors’ answer to comment 3:
   The last sentence of the Authors' contributions section now reads: “ML, FE, HJB, CR, MAJR, MV, DBH recruited participants. NT, MJV, PHMP and AMM wrote the first draft, and all authors contributed and approved the final version of the manuscript for publication.”
Reviewers' reports

Reviewer: Karen Steindorf

Reviewer's report:
The authors have basically answered my points sufficiently well to allow their manuscript to be published.
My only discretionary revision is:
Please check whether the information on my comment 7 is given in the manuscript, and if not, please consider to add it as other readers from countries with a higher proportion of neo-adjuvant therapy might raise the same question.

The information on neo-adjuvant chemotherapy appears in the fourth paragraph of the results section of the manuscript. At the beginning of this paragraph we indicated that the PACT study coincided with (all or part of) chemotherapy in all patients and at the end of the same paragraph we mentioned that neo-adjuvant chemotherapy was only used in less than 5% of PACT participants.

The manuscript can be accepted without further revisions

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Reviewer: Siobhan Phillips

Reviewer's report:
The authors have adequately addressed my concerns.