Author’s response to reviews

Title: The role of a structured exercise-training program on cardiac structure and function after acute myocardial infarction: design of a prospective randomized study

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According to your suggestions we have revised the manuscript to include your concerns. Please check below the author’s reply to each of your concerns:

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Methodology

The role of a structured exercise-training program on cardiac structure and function after acute myocardial infarction: design of a prospective randomized study

Ricardo Fontes-Carvalho, Francisco Sampaio, Madalena Teixeira, Vasco Gama and Adelino Leite-Moreira

Trials

Dear Dr Fontes-Carvalho,

Thank you for your email. Your manuscript was submitted as a methodology paper; could you please confirm that the paper should be a study protocol? If this is the case, please disregard the previous email you receive, and address the requests below:

Before your manuscript can be sent to our Editorial Board for their initial consideration, please could you provide us with copies of the original funding and ethics documentation. We would very much appreciate it if you could provide these in English, or provide translations to accompany the original documents.

Author’s reply: two additional files have been submitted - one with the ethics documentation and the other with a copy of the funding agreement

We need to confirm the following:

- that the documentation refers to the correct study and we can tell which body
granted the approvals
- that full ethical approval has been given (i.e. not with conditions)
- if funding is external (from a government/research organisation)

Please could you email the documentation to us. We encourage you do this as soon as possible to minimise any delay to the processing of your manuscript.

Formatting changes
There are a number of matters that require your attention before your manuscript can be peer reviewed, as the manuscript does not conform to the journal style. These are outlined below, but we advise that you check our instructions for authors http://www.trialsjournal.com/info/instructions/ for more information:

1. Please ensure the title conforms to journal style for study protocol articles. The title should follow the format “____________: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.”

Author's reply: changed in the revised version of the manuscript

2. Please include the email addresses of all authors on the title page.

Author's reply: added to the revised version of the manuscript

3. Please restructure the Abstract. The Abstract should be composed of the following four sections: Background, Methods/Design, Discussion and Trial Registration.

Author's reply: changed in the revised version of the manuscript

4. Please include the date your study was registered with your trial registration number at the end of the Abstract.

Author's reply: added to the revised version of the manuscript

5. Please rename the ‘Purpose’ section ‘Background’.

Author's reply: changed in the revised version of the manuscript

6. Please include the full names of all ethical bodies that approved your study in the various centres involved. If you do not wish to list them all in the Methods section, please include the list as an additional file and refer to this in the methods section.

Author's reply: changed in the revised version of the manuscript (included in the Methods section)

7. Please include a Discussion section after the Methods. This can include discussion of any practical or operational issues involved in performing the study, and any other issues linked to the study that do not fall within the previous two headings.

Author's reply: added to the revised version of the manuscript
8. Please include a Trial Status section after the Discussion. This should state the status of the trial at the time of manuscript submission. The journal considers study protocol articles for proposed or ongoing trials provided they have not completed patient recruitment at the time of submission.

Author's reply: added to the revised version of the manuscript; the trial is ongoing with several patients already recruited

9. Please include a list of abbreviations used and their meanings, after the Conclusions.

Author's reply: added to the revised version of the manuscript

10. Please include an Authors’ Contributions section at the end of the manuscript, after the Competing Interests section. Each author needs to be listed individually. We suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): “AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Author's reply: added to the revised version of the manuscript

11. Please include an additional file title and legend section after the reference list.

Author's reply: added to the revised version of the manuscript