Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Early rehabilitation using a passive cycle ergometer on muscle morphology in mechanically ventilated critically ill patients in the Intensive Care Unit (MoVe-ICU study): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 13 July 2015

**Reviewer:** Marc Nickels

**Reviewer’s report:**

It is stated ‘Eligible patients will have been on MV for at least 24 to 48 hours,’ given that a minimum time period is stated it would make more sense if the sentence was: ‘Eligible patients will have been on MV for at least 24 hours,’

If the intent was to include an ICU length of stay of over 48 hours then this needs to be stated in addition. This is found in the abstract, methods (patients & assessment).

The in text ref 29 is in large font the second time it is used (Discussion)

The term 'mobilization' has been replaced with 'rehabilitation' as recommended in most sections of the manuscript. However in the discussion when referring to other publications the term 'mobilization' is used and it is re-used in the concluding sentence. I recommend consistency of terminology throughout the manuscript and I also recommend the term 'rehabilitation' as per my original review.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests