Author's response to reviews

Title: Baseline characteristics and Statistical Analysis Plan for the 'Prevention Of Decline in Cognition After Stroke Trial' (PODCAST) trial

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor Trials

Thank you for your letter regarding the submission of our manuscript entitled Baseline characteristics and Statistical Analysis Plan for the ‘Prevention Of Decline in Cognition After Stroke Trial’ (PODCAST) trial (MS: 1523029833160017)

The following issues with the submission were raised and have been addressed in the 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 include the email addresses of all authors on the title page.
   a. This has been included

2. Please include the date of registration with the trial registration number at the end of the Abstract.
3. Please include a Method section after the Background. This should include the design of the study, the setting, the type of participants or materials involved, a clear description of all interventions and comparisons, and the type of analysis used, including a power calculation if appropriate.

a. This has been included

4. As your research involves humans please include a statement of ethical approval in the Methods section of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate. Any experimental research on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration. If your study is taking place in multiple sites please ensure you mention all of the ethical bodies that have approved the study at the different sites.

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5. Please include a statement in your Methods section explaining that you obtained informed consent from each participant.

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6. Please include a Results section. Results of statistical analysis should include, where appropriate, relative and absolute risks or risk reductions, and confidence intervals. The results and discussion sections may also be broken into subsections with short, informative headings.

a. This has been included. However this is a baseline paper so the a later results paper will be published.

7. Please include a Conclusions section as the last section of the text. This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance. Summary illustrations may be included.

a. This has been included

8. Please rename the Declarations section, ‘Competing Interests’.

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9. 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.”
a. This has been included

10. Please upload the figures as separate files via the online submission system. They should not be included within the main manuscript document.
a. This has been done

11. Please include a figure title and legend section after the reference list.
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