Reviewer's report

Title: Baseline characteristics, statistical analysis plan and feasibility for the 'Prevention Of Decline in Cognition After Stroke Trial' (PODCAST) trial

Version: 3 Date: 11 August 2015

Reviewer: Steff Lewis

Reviewer's report:

Many thanks for addressing my previous comments thoroughly.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. The SAP in the appendix does not look like a full Statistical Analysis Plan, as I am used to seeing them. In particular, I have the following issues with it.
   a. The protocol refers to the full analysis set, per protocol set and safety set, yet it is not clear which tables will use which analysis set.
   b. The analysis of the proportion dead that is mentioned in the protocol does not appear in the SAP
   c. The analyses are not adjusted for all stratification and minimisation variables, as stated in the protocol. I can see why, as the dataset is smaller that envisaged, but the choice of variables is not justified.
   d. The protocol explains that a method will be chosen based on the results of the OAST analysis. The choice of method following this work is not justified in the SAP.
   e. The level of significance that will be used is not stated.

   etc.

I understand that it is now too late to change the SAP, as the analysis has been done. The extra work necessary to write a full SAP is superfluous now that the analysis is complete. If you called it a 'Set of dummy tables for the analysis' rather than a SAP, then I would be happy.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no relevant competing interests, as far as I am aware.