Reviewer’s report

Title: Exercise Intervention for Unilateral Amputees with Low Back Pain: Study Protocol for a Randomised, Controlled Trial

Version: 0 Date: 07 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Louise Geneen

Reviewer’s report:

A very interesting study. I look forward to seeing the results.

Well described and detailed.

Abstract: first sentence "Atraumatic lower limb amputation is a life-changing event for approximately 185,000 persons each year". Can you please state if you mean 185,000 worldwide/in the US/in North America...? and based on the age range (18-60) that you are using, does this mean 185,000 adults, or include under 18s or over 65s too? ... just for clarity.

Intervention description: you have mentioned progression using bands with greater resistance, but do you have a plan if they are unable to perform with the lowest resistance band - ie will you allow them to continue but start at a lower level such as performing the movement with no resistance band?

Stats: the study flow diagram seems to suggest you will only include in the analysis those who complete the programme (ie study flow suggests n=32), can you just clarify if this is the case, or whether you would use intention-to-treat (ITT) to include those who have dropped out or been excluded along the way for whatever reason. If using ITT what will you use for the "missing data" - LOCF/BOCF/WOCF.

Compliance: if they do not achieve the 85% compliance rate you wish, is their data (and them) excluded? Links back to ITT etc

Level of interest
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An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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All images and figures within the manuscript should be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation. No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. If you have concerns about the veracity of the figures you should choose the first option below.

**Statistical review**
Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.

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