Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluating the effect and mechanism of upper limb motor function recovery induced by immersive virtual reality-based rehabilitation for subacute stroke subjects: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 0 Date: 27 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Amanda de Araújo

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript presents an interesting and useful question within the area of rehabilitation research after stroke. The study is well systematized and presented as well as details important aspects of the research. I have minor comments that I believe could strengthen the value of the study.

1. Your SPIRIT figure is incomplete. Please insert all information about the timeline phases of your study in the SPIRIT figure. This figure should be detailed and filled with all information pertinent to the study. In addition, in accordance with the Trials Journal submission guidelines, the figure should be included in the main body of the text and referenced in the text.

2. The form you entered as SPIRIT checklist is not correct. The correct file is named "Fillable Checklist" and is available in http://www.spirit-statement.org/publications-downloads/ (in accordance with Trials Journal submission guidelines). Please insert the correct SPIRIT checklist as additional file and filled with all study information.

3. Study design section: Please insert more information about the randomization aspect, i.e. inserts the allocation ratio, block size and how the randomization sequence will be generated.

4. In the Figure 1: in order to improve reader's understanding, please change the word "randomize" to "randomization".

5. Sample size considerations section: please clearly state the rate of dropout of patients expected in your study and whether you will be considering any strategy to reduce this rate during conduct of the study.

6. Statistical analysis section: Please report how you will prevent or treat missing information.

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