**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Manual Therapy Versus Therapeutic Exercise in non-specific chronic neck pain: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.

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The patients will sign an informed consent in which details of the types of treatment are not given, only it is informed that they can be assigned to three different treatments. The treatments will be explained after randomization, and the patient may decline participation at that time.

The placebo treatment will be called for patients treatment number 3. The therapist will simulate the technique of suboccipital inhibition on the neck of the patient and will also light the laser device, being able to see the patient as the therapist configures the parameters of the laser. The therapist will apply the same procedure that he would use when applying a real laser therapy, but he will not press the emission button.

In the simulated application of laser therapy the patient should have the protective glasses on.

Although we have not evaluated the credibility of the placebo treatment in a specific way, we believe that patients will not believe that the manual technique is simulated. In addition, similar procedures have been applied in other studies already published. Reference 35:


Sample Size Calculation: We have recalculated the sample size, estimating a percentage of losses of 15%. The recommended by the PEDro scale for trials. (https://www.pedro.org.au/english/downloads/pedro-scale/)