Author’s response to reviews

Title: The Transportability of Memory Specificity Training (MeST): Adapting an Intervention Derived from Experimental Psychology to Routine Clinical Practices

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Version: 1 Date: 12 Dec 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor,

Thank you for your feedback. Here are our answers to the remarks on the meta-data.

With kindest regards,

The authors.

1. Your study falls within the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)’ definition of a clinical trial: any research study that prospectively assigns human subjects to one or more health related interventions to evaluate the effects on health or biological outcomes. As such, Biomed Central requires that a Trial Registration Number is provided in order for the manuscript to be published.

Although a TRN is usually required prior to the start of the peer-review process, the BMC-series journals does accept retrospectively registered trials. If you have not registered the trial, we
therefore request that you do so as soon as possible so that your study can be accepted for publication. All trials must be registered with an ICMJE approved registry, as listed in the ICMJE guide: http://www.icmje.org/about-icmje/faqs/clinical-trials-registration/

Once you know your trial registration number, please submit a revised version of your manuscript with the number and date of registration included in the abstract. The last section of the abstract should be Trial Registration: listing the trial registry and the unique identifying number, e.g. Trial registration: Current Controlled Trials ISRCTN73824458, as well as the date of registration. Please note that there should be no space between the letters and numbers of the trial registration number. If registration took place after the first participant was enrolled, please state also “Retrospectively registered” at the end of this section

--> We have obtained a retrospectively registered trial registration and added this to the abstract, as you requested.

“Trial registration: ISRCTN registry, IDISRCTN10144349, registered on January 22, 2019. Retrospectively registered.”

“2. We note that you state that you have obtained ethical approval to conduct the study in various clinical settings from the Social and Societal Ethics Committee of the University of Leuven. We were wondering if you were able to obtain ethics approval from the participating clinics in addition to the Social and Societal Ethics Committee of the University of Leuven.”

--> Within our jurisdiction it is acceptable for each setting to decide if a separate ethical approval for their clinic was necessary or whether the general approval received from the first authors university is sufficient. For all seven participating clinical settings, the approval by Social and Societal Ethics Committee of the University of Leuven was regarded as sufficient for the stakeholders, so no additional formal approvals were requested.

“3. In the section 'Funding', please also describe the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.”
We changed the statement to:

“This study was funded by the KU Leuven Program Funding Grant PF/10/005. The funding body played no role in the design of the study and collection, analysis and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.”

“4. Please consider the list of authors as it currently stands with reference to our guidelines regarding qualification for authorship (http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship).

Currently, the contributions of authors TB and KT do not automatically qualify them for authorship. In the section “Authors’ contributions”, please provide further clarifications on their contributions, and see our guidelines for authorship below.

An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. Authors are expected to fulfil the criteria below (adapted from McNutt et al., Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Feb 2018, 201715374; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1715374115; licensed under CC BY 4.0):

Each author is expected to have made substantial contributions to the conception OR design of the work; OR the acquisition, analysis, OR interpretation of data; OR the creation of new software used in the work; OR have drafted the work or substantively revised it

AND to have approved the submitted version (and any substantially modified version that involves the author's contribution to the study);

AND to have agreed both to be personally accountable for the author's own contributions and to ensure that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work, even ones in which the author was not personally involved, are appropriately investigated, resolved, and the resolution documented in the literature.
Acquisition of funding, collection of data or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not usually justify authorship.

If these guidelines are not met, we would request the following change of authorship form be filled out and sent to our editorial office.”

--> We hope our clarification now justifies that each contributor is qualified as an author. The manuscript now states:

“FR is the principal investigator for the study protocol. KM and FR are responsible for the conception and the design of the study. KM was responsible for the implementation of MeST in the settings and the acquisition of the data. KT made substantial contributions to the analysis and interpretation of data. KM drafted the manuscript, TB, KT and FR substantively revised it. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.”

“5. We notice that you have mentioned an additional file in the Availability of data and materials section. However, it appears that the additional files are missing from your file inventory. Please ensure all additional files are uploaded alongside the manuscript.”

--> The additional file including all data was now uploaded.

“6. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.”

--> We have checked all files for this to be the case.