Reviewer’s report

Title: A pilot randomised clinical trial of physiotherapy (manual therapy, exercise and education) for early-onset hip osteoarthritis post-hip arthroscopy

Version: 1 Date: 02 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Sameer Parpia

Reviewer's report:

The authors have adequately responded to majority of the comments and the paper is clearer. Some additional issues:

1. There are still concerns regarding the double-blinding (which I don't think this trial is achieving). How is the participant blinded if one group is receiving a physiotherapy intervention while other group isn't (even if frequency and duration of treatment are the same). The participant is aware whether they are receiving physiotherapy or not.

2. Line 199 - Baseline characteristics were compared between groups. This is discouraged by the CONSORT. In addition, p-value are presented in Table 1.

3. Authors provide an estimate of the sample size for effect size of 0.7. A useful piece of information would be the standard deviation used in the effect size estimation.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Acceptable
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal