Author’s response to reviews

Title: EMPOWER-PD - A physical therapy intervention to empower the individuals with Parkinson’s disease: a study protocol for a feasibility randomized controlled trial

Authors:

Helena Braga (helenadeoliveirabraga@gmail.com)
Elaine Gregório (elainefisioterapiagregorio@hotmail.com)
Rafaela Myra (rafaelasimonmyra@gmail.com)
Ana Sofia de Sousa (anasofiaks@hotmail.com)
Talita Kuhn (talitakuhn.tk@gmail.com)
Jéssica Klug (jeh_klug@hotmail.com)
Adriana de Azevedo Guimarães (adriana.guimaraes@udesc.br)
Alessandra Swarowsky (alessandra.martin@udesc.br)

Version: 3 Date: 03 Dec 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

November 26th, 2018.

Dear Editorial Board of Pilot and Feasibility Studies

Please find enclosure the reviewed version of the manuscript “PAFS-D-18-00025 EMPOWER-PD - A physical therapy intervention to empower the individuals with Parkinson's disease: a study protocol for a feasibility randomized controlled trial” by Helena de Oliveira Braga, PT, Master degree; Elaine Cristina Gregório, PT; Rafaela Simon Myra, PT; Ana Sofia Kauling de Sousa, PT; Talita Vitorina Kuhn, PT; Jéssica Klug, PT; Adriana Coutinho de Azevedo Guimarães, Ph.D, Alessandra Swarowsky, Ph.D.

The authors would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript. We addressed all the points suggested by the reviewer. All the changes done in this third revising version were highlighted in yellow therefore the reviewer can promptly find the corrections.
Sincerely yours,

Alessandra Swarowsky on behalf of the authors.

Corresponding author: Alessandra Swarowsky, PT, PhD.

Institution and Mailing Address: Santa Catarina State University, 358 Pascoal Simone, Coqueiros, 88080-350. Email: alesandra.martin@udesc.br, Tel: +55 48 984753759.

Reviewer reports:

The sentence you have added on page 4, lines 39-40 "The target sample size of this study will be based on the qualitative variables and will be adopted the recruitment of 6-12 participants per group as recommended." needs clarification. "Qualitative variables" is an unfamiliar term. Do you mean that you are basing your recruitment on recommendations for qualitative research?. Further, the grammar of "will be adopted the recruitment" is incorrect. You could write something like: "The recommendation to have 6-12 participants per group [ref] will be adopted..."

Authors: Thank you for your suggestions. We changed the sentence according your suggestion and replaced the term “qualitative variables” for “qualitative analysis”.

The reference you have added on page 11 does not appear to go with the sentence you have added it next to. The sentence is about sample size and you need to provide a reference to the literature on sample size choice for a feasibility study. The reference you have provided is for the CONSORT extension for pilot & feasibility studies, which is primarily aimed at reporting.

Authors: Thank you so much for you observation. We had choose this reference (Eldridge et al., 2016) based on the amount of time that the authors explain about the sample size on feasibility studies throughout the manuscript. However, we agree with the reviewer and choose the reference most suitable, as described below: