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Comments on Aydin et al: The effectiveness of dry needling and exercise therapy in patients with dizziness caused by cervical myofascial pain syndrome : a prospective randomized clinical study.

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3 Comments on Aydin et al: The effectiveness of dry needling and exercise therapy in patients with
4 dizziness caused by cervical myofascial pain syndrome; a prospective randomized clinical study.
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6 Dear Editor,
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8 After reading the abovementioned article some questions arose which may affect the final
9 conclusions. We would like to ask the authors for some clarifications on the following aspects:
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11 Regarding the presentation of the results and applied statistics:
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13 The authors focus on intra group differences. Both groups improve on all outcome measures.
14 Concerning the inter group differences it is hard to match and interpret the information in the text
15 for instance with the information displayed in table 1 and 4. What do the numbers in the tables
16 represent? Between group differences, the most important results of a randomized clinical trial, are
17 hardly reported. Based on the provided means and standard deviations in the text, we reanalysed
18 their data. We found that both groups hardly differ in time. Using a comparison of means calculator,
19 we compared the reported means and standard deviations and found that both groups only differ on
20 the intensity of the dizziness after 1 month. All other p-values were above 0,05. Was the reported
21 ANOVA a two way ANOVA, taking into account the group and time effects?
22

23 Additionally, why was there no trial registration number and no definition of a primary outcome
24 measure?
25

26 Regarding the selection and randomisation of participants:
27

28 In total 61 participants were included. The recruitment, selection and randomisation of these
29 participants are not clearly described. They were volunteers, but were they recruited via
30 advertisements, in a hospital setting or other?
31

32 With these considerations we wonder if the conclusion that dry needling and exercise is more
33 effective than exercise therapy alone is still appropriate?
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35 Hopefully, the authors will elucidate our concerns.
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