

Supplement: Table S

Adherence of RCTs (N=136) to individual items of the CONSORT checklist for abstracts: declaration of items to be considered in the abstract according to the CONSORT recommendations, evaluation criteria for the respective abstracts, total and relative frequency [%] of abstracts providing information on the respective items according to the evaluation criteria; sub-items (* marked) are taken from Explanations and Elaborations of CONSORT for Abstracts checklist[5].

| Item | assessment criteria | absolute and relative frequency of abstracts reporting the item (N = 136) (%) |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Title | identification of the study as randomised | 57 (42%) |
| Trial design | description of the trial design | 97 (71%) |
| Participants | eligibility criteria for participants and setting where data was collected | 123 (90%) |
| Interventions | were interventions intended for each group | 129 (95%) |
| Objectives | specific objectives or hypotheses | 133 (98%) |
| Definition primary outcome | clearly defined primary outcome | 95 (70%) |
| Randomisation | How for this report participants were allocated to interventions | 39 (29%) |
| Blinding (masking) | whether or not participants, caregivers and those assessing the outcomes were blinded to group assignment | 59 (43%) |
| Numbers randomised | number of participants randomised to each group | 75 (55%) |
| Recruitment | trial status | 12 (9%) |
| Numbers analysed | number of participants analysed in each group | 30 (22%) |
| Outcomes | fulfilling both criteria as: | 0 (0%) |
| | – primary outcome for each trial group / trial arm* | 87 (64%) |
| | – for primary outcome, effect size and precision (confidence interval) reported (in total)* | 9 (7%) |
| Harms | important adverse events or side effects | 65 (48%) |
| Conclusions | general interpretation of the results fulfilling both criteria: | 23 (17%) |
| | – consistency with the results reported in the abstract* | 130 (96%) |
| | – benefits and harms reported* | 24 (18%) |
| Trial registration | registration number and name of trial register | 26 (19%) |
| Funding | source of funding | 33 (24%) |