

**Table 2, statistical differences between treatment groups, n = 118**

Variable	Oral trials (n=23)	Non oral trials (n=95)	P
Age in years, mean (SD)	66.70 (16.72)	77.14 (14.55)	.003**
Lives independently <sup>†</sup> , n (%)	17 (73.9)	40 (42.1)	.006**
Neurological ward <sup>‡</sup> , n (%)	16 (69.6)	24 (25.3)	.000***
Neurological <sup>§</sup> diagnosis, n (%)	18 (78.3)	29 (30.5)	.000***
Neurological PMH, n (%)	4 (17.4)	36 (37.9)	.062
Dementia PMH, n (%)	2 (8.70)	30 (31.6)	.027*
Ward nutrition assistant available, n (%)	13 (56.5)	53 (55.8)	.949
Chronic dysphagia, n (%)	7 (30.4)	48 (50.5)	.083
Video fluoroscopy completed, n (%)	5 (21.7)	8 (8.42)	.067
Experience of treating SLT, n (%)			
Band 5	2 (8.70)	35 (36.8)	.009**
Band 6	4 (17.4)	25 (26.3)	.372
Band 7	2 (8.7)	7 (7.37)	.830
Mixed SLTs	15 (65.2)	28 (29.5)	.001**

<sup>†</sup> Lives independently vs carer support/nursing home

<sup>‡</sup> Acute stroke unit, Stroke or Neuro-rehabilitation ward

<sup>§</sup> Diagnosis of stroke, other acute neurology or progressive neurology