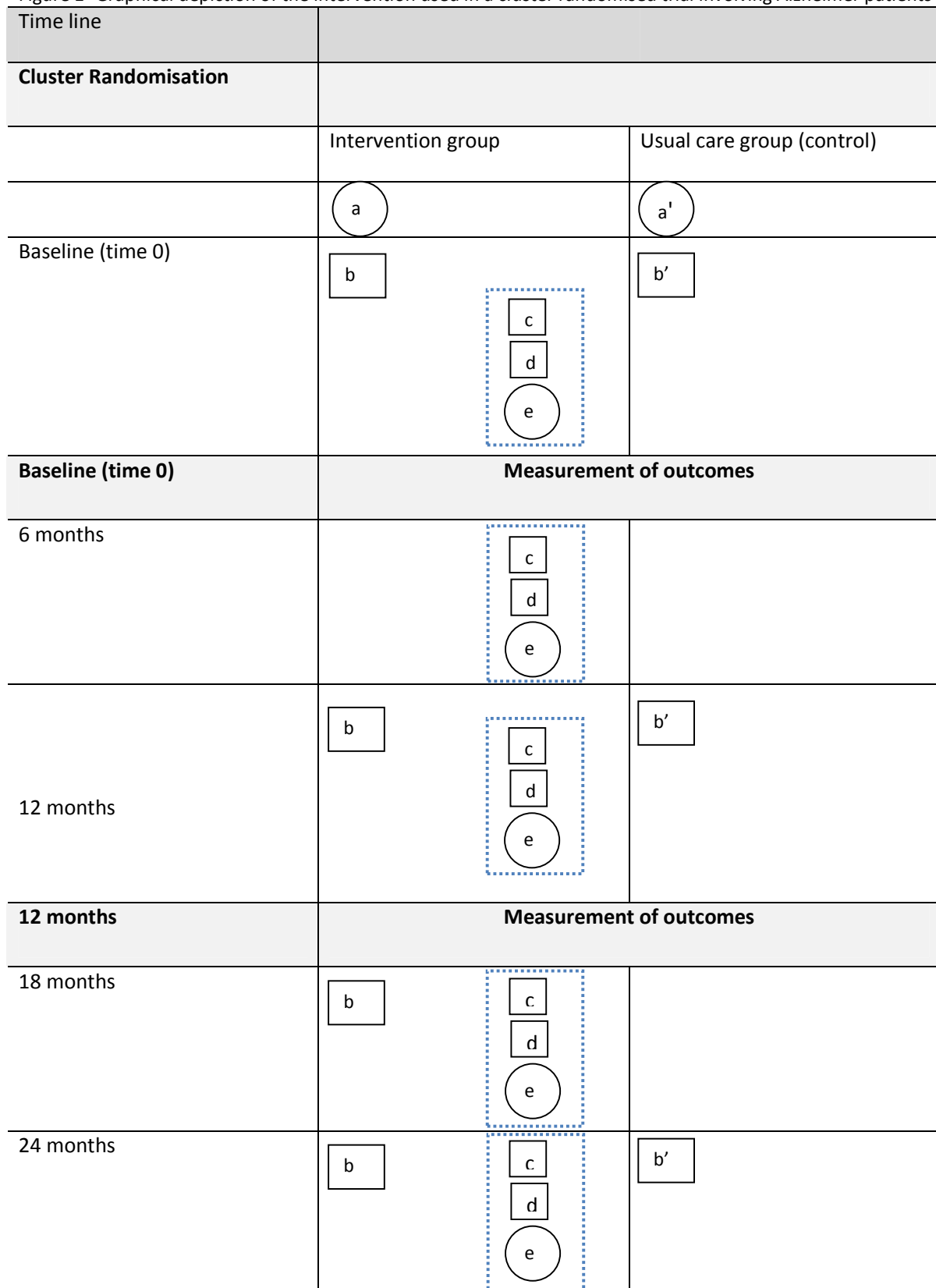Figure 1- Graphical depiction of the intervention used in a cluster randomised trial involving Alzheimer patients

Time line		
Cluster Randomisation		
	Intervention group	Usual care group (control)
	(a)	(a')
Baseline (time 0)	b [c, d, (e)]	b'
Baseline (time 0)	**Measurement of outcomes**	
6 months	[c, d, (e)]	
12 months	b [c, d, (e)]	b'
12 months	**Measurement of outcomes**	
18 months	b [c, d, (e)]	
24 months	b [c, d, (e)]	b'

24 months	Measurement of outcomes

Fixed and flexible components of the intervention are represented respectively by squares and circles. **[Circles and squares were not at the right place below.]**

(a) 1 day specific training session designed for investigators (one or two per centre) on the 2 aspects of the intervention (assessment and standardised management protocols) before the recruitment period. A second training session was organised one year after the beginning of the study.

(a') 90 min specific training session designed for investigators (one or two per centre)

(b) Standardised questionnaires completed by investigators in order to collect data concerning: inclusion / exclusion criteria (only for baseline visit), socio-demographic assessment, co morbidities.

(b') Standardised questionnaires completed by investigator in order to collect data concerning: inclusion / exclusion criteria (only for baseline visit), socio-demographic assessment, co morbidities.

(c) Comprehensive standardised evaluation: Mini Mental State Examination, Activities of Daily Living and Instrumental activities of Daily Living scales, Mini Nutritional Assessment, Neuropsychiatric Inventory, one-leg balance, Caregiver Zarit burden interview (taking about 2 hours).

(d) 17 item check list used in order to assess following issues: Notification of diagnosis, verification of patient and caregiver knowledge of the disease, treatment modification required, caregiver psychological and physical health, nutritional status, exercise training, gait disorders and walking capacities, functional dependency, behavioural symptoms, depression, sleep disorders, home help, social benefits, legal protection of patient, at risk of accidents when driving a car, respite care, decision to institutionalise the patient

(e) Use of standardised management protocols for each area assessed mainly focused on non pharmacological interventions (detailed in table 1)