Reviewer's report

Title: Is the Timed Up and Go test a useful predictor of risk of falls in community dwelling older adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 1 Date: 27 September 2013

Reviewer: Yuki Soma

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer’s reports:
General comments:
Fall prediction tools like Timed up and go test (TUG test) have been investigated before in lots of articles, and used for a long time. However, some studies reported TUG test could not be for predicting fall. Therefore, it is indispensable in geriatrics area for reconfirming validity of TUG. Considering this necessity, the present study brought up important discussion. Yet, because there are some concerns, some revisions are requested as stated below.

Major Compulsory Revisions
Comment 1
P13 Predictive accuracy of all include studies
Although, according to the literature, in more articles the TUG test was performed at patient’s comfortable speed, this study for meta-analysis included one study which performed TUG test not at patient’s comfortable speed but as fast as possible. Therefore, since in meta-analysis factors such as sensitivity, specificity, and odds ratio are important, excluding that one article is suggested.

Minor essential revisions
Comment 2:
P10 Statistical methods
What was significant level in this study? Since this study discuss about statistical significance in results section, please mention significance level in methods.

Comment 3: (Minor essential revisions)
Figure 4
Mention 95% confidential interval of area under ROC curve.

Comment 4: (Minor essential revisions)
Some typos were seen in this article. Please confirm and revise following points;
P12, L8
25 twenty five article # 25 article
P13, L18
~ at a comfortable pace The ~ #~ administrated at a comfortable pace. The ~
P15, L6
05% CI # 95% CI

Discretionary Revisions
Comment 5:
P5, L12-15
When referring to the recent systematic review, score # 2 points has not been explained, writing more details is suggested.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.