Reviewer's report

Title: Growth in Children with Cerebral Palsy during five years after Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy: a practice-based study

Version: 2 Date: 6 June 2010

Reviewer: Jules Becher

Reviewer's report:

This article describes longitudinal growth data in a cohort of 56 CP children after selective dorsal rhizotomy 5 yrs after surgery. The article is clearly written, with a clear aim of the study and results.

1. the question posed is well defined
2. The methods are appropriate and well described
3. The data are sound
4. The manuscript adhere relevant standards
5. The discussion is correct. I have as minor essential revision that as well in the abstract as in the manuscript conclusion the first sentence should be .... for children with bilateral spastic CP after SDR. (its suggests general growth curves).
6. Limitations are described. As discretionary revision I recommend to add the relative low numbers of children in each GMFCS class.
7. Acknowledgement upon earlier work is correct.
8. Title and abstract are accurate, besides my earlier comment.
9. It is written in appropriate English. I only advise as minor essential revision to replace CP spastic diplegia in bilateral spastic CP, according the SCPE guidelines. Also, it is not very likely that GMFCS 4 and 5 children suffer from spastic diplegia but quadriplegia. To avoid this discussion, the term bilateral spastic CP is advised.

It is questionable if all these figures really contribute to the contents of the article, as the results are also clearly described.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.