Reviewer’s report

Title: Modified constraint-induced movement therapy or conventional occupational therapy following injection of Botulinum toxin-A to improve bimanual performance in children with hemiplegic cerebral palsy: A randomised controlled trial methods paper

Version: 2 Date: 11 May 2010

Reviewer: Matti Sillanpaa

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have considered most of the remarks made. However, clarifications and explanations made only to the reviewers do not reach the reader and therefore, they must be included in the text. This is especially true for the exclusion criteria. Self-evidently, one cannot alter the inclusion or exclusion criteria after the study is completed. There is no question about it. But what is important is to learn which criteria of inclusion and exclusion were applied, because the criteria applied may remarkably affect the results. Data are of little value if their origin cannot reliably be clarified. Furthermore, f.ex., the diagnosis of spastic hemiplegia is more or less vague, but it is more accurate, if it is defined as a) congenital, b) includes (or excludes) the mildest cases with maybe only one-sided abnormal reflexes, and includes/excludes quadriplegia with predominantly one-sided hemiplegia.

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.