Reviewer's report

Title: Changes in perceived well-being of patients one year after stroke in general practice - Recommendations for quality aftercare

Version: 2 Date: 28 June 2010

Reviewer: Jorunn Drageset

Reviewer's report:

1. Abstract
   Background: This purpose does not cover the purpose of Article s, I recommend that it is identical.

2. Introduction: Last sentence p 5, which variables are compared to the Dutch population? This is unclear (see table 3).

3. Study design: I miss inclusion criteria. Regarding the exclusion criteria, text and Figure 1 shows differently. Rehabilitation centre, and other hospital department, was it included or excluded? This was unclear. I recommend this to be clearer.

First paragraph, penultimate sentence, p 6. Please write the ethical code.

First paragraph, last sentence p 6 regarding informed consent? What about patients with mild dementia?

Regarding dementia – see table 1-. Regarding the questionnaire SF-36 and HADS, this questionnaires are not intended to use with patients with diagnose of dementia. Did you have anything form that excluded patients with a diagnosis of dementia?

Patients were interviewed face to face with standardized questionnaires. Got the interviewer some training?

Last sentence p 7; smoking, reading, use of alcohol is probably not physical exercise? I recommend that to be made clearer

Statistical analyses

How are the variables controlled for confounders?

The sentence regarding Boneferoni test must be make clearer

Since several of these independent variables might probably be correlated, why not performed multivariate regression analysis to estimate the effect of each independent variable adjusted for the others variables? The Independent variables that were significant in the ANOVA could be included in the multiple linear regression analysis.

4. Results: Enter the response rate.

Functioning: “Home for elderly”, this was not clear in the exclusion and inclusion criteria. What kind of care received the patients?

Could it be that Home for elderly has less physical limitations in the environments
than the patients home? If this is right it will probably influence the score on Barthel index.

Daily occupations: Many men were married in the study; it is likely that the women spouses take housekeeping? I recommend that this to be discussed.

Last paragraph, last sentence - moved to discussion

Mood disorder

The statement about 6% of women are moved to the discussion

Health –related quality of life

Is it only sf-36 to be compared, if the case is unclear until the method capitals.

Other sections, use the subdimensions

5.Discussion

Other sections, it is comparable with the study conducted in Taiwan?

Third paragraph p. 14, The sentence that started with “These stroke patient, type in this study…..

Put in the text “in the present study”

6.Conclusion

Make your conclusion shorter. Include only the main findings. It is not necessary two write the last sentence.

I would recommend that you do not emphasize the text of the article.

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