Title: Perceived wellbeing of patients one year post stroke in general practice - Recommendations for quality aftercare

Version: 3 Date: 3 December 2010

Reviewer: Ashma Krishan

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. It is very unclear why the mean barthel index value is still being reported especially since the normality assumption is not valid. It seems in this instance the median barthel index value should be reported.

2. In the statistical analysis section in the second paragraph, it is unclear what is meant by “Wilcoxon ranksum test for correlated observations and Mann-Whitney/Kruskall-Wallis tests for independent observations.” Wilcoxon rank-sum test is another name for Mann-Whitney tests and are used for assessing independent observations. Kruskall-Wallis test is a non-parametric equivalent of a one-way ANOVA which is used for 3 or more groups. It may be a good idea to read up on Mann-Whitney and Kruskall-Wallis tests.

3. In the results chapter in the section on ‘Caregiver strain’ in the second paragraph, it says “No correlation could be found for these variables.’ However, it is not very clear what is meant by could not be found.

4. It is unclear what methods are being used for Table 4. It mentions independent-samples T-test but unsure how t-test is being used. All the variables have 3 or more groups so unclear how t-test could be used.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. In Table 2, the p-value for housekeeping should be reported as p<0.001.

2. In the results chapter in the section on ‘Daily occupations’ in the second paragraph, it says “Almost the same applies to physical activity.” However, it seems this is not the case since for housekeeping 45% did as much as before and 30% did less. For physical activity 57% did less and 31% did as much as before. Thus there seems to be a huge disagreement between the two results.

3. There seems to be an error between the results reported in the third paragraph of the ‘Daily occupations’ section and Table 2. According to Table 2 61% of patients did as many hobbies as before and according to the review 36% of the patients had trouble maintaining their hobbies and 34% could not do as much as before. It is unclear where these results are coming from and which are correct and which are incorrect.
4. If change in health has been removed then should be removed from last paragraph in the section on ‘Caregiver strain’ too.

5. Consistency is required as either all figures should be written in numerical form or all should be written in word form.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.