Reviewer's report

Title: Less impaired than anticipated; the frequency of upper extremity function within 72 hours after first occasion of stroke in an unselected population. A part of the SALGOT study.

Version: 3 Date: 13 October 2012

Reviewer: Francesco Coreaw

Reviewer's report:

Major remarks

The title: “Less impaired than anticipated; the frequency of upper extremity function within 72 hours after first occasion of stroke in an unselected population. A part of the SALGOT study.”

the first sentence seems misleading and not in the style of the journal i suggest to shorten in

“Prevalence of upper extremity function within 72 hours after first-ever stroke in an unselected population. A part of the SALGOT study”. or similar

Please highlight the NIH related results, also in the abstract. This will had extra interest to the paper since all health care authorities, EMEA included, consider this scale as standard benchmark

“...Sweden has an especially good position for studies with a special geographical catchment area, as all acute in-patient based care is tax funded and different social groups are offered care under the same conditions...” at my knowledge in continental europe all political systems provide an universalistic approach to major health troubles, this is true for sure in France, Germany and Italy for personal experience. The extra values of sweden for me is the tracking of patients, the system guarantee complete follow up to citizens. Re-arrange the sentence in the discussion section.

“...In this perspective, our data that showed fewer subarachnoid haemorrhages (1%) than expected in a stroke population are not surprising and can be explained by the hospital organization...” subarachnoid bleedings may not lead to stroke according to WHO criteria, to verify you should see all CT scans done for headache in Sahlgrenska in the same time. I fear you can't speculate on SAH trends with the SALGOT data. Remove the sentence or explain

Minor remarks

“...M MAS-UAS-95 ...” i do not recommend to start a paragraph with an acronym or number.
For many readers an “instrument” will be considered as a device designed to produce musical sounds, I suggest “tool” or “scale”

I suggest to change Bamford subtypes in the text
TACI instead of TAC
PACI instead of PAC
and so on as was done correctly in the table section

**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:**

none