Reviewer's report

Title: How to improve walking, balance and social participation following stroke: a comparison of the long term effects of two walking aids - canes and an orthosis TheraTogs - on the recovery of gait following acute stroke. A study protocol for a multi-centre, single blind, randomised control trial.

Version: 2 Date: 9 November 2011

Reviewer: Erwin Stolz

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. I wonder why you restricted the inclusion to patients who were initially hemiplegic and recovered to un-aided walking? What is the rational?
2. Why is the time from symptom onset not considered as an inclusion criterion since it might influence cortical plasticity?
3. Why does the site of stroke not play a role in recruitment?

Minor Essential Revisions

None

Discretionary Revisions

None

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests to declare.