Reviewer's report

**Title:** Quality of life of elderly ischaemic stroke patients one year after thrombolytic therapy; a comparison between patients with and without thrombolytic therapy

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 6 March 2012

**Reviewer:** Timothy Kwok

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a longitudinal study to examine the potential influence of thrombolytic therapy on the long term QOL of stroke patients. The main findings were that the thrombolytic group patients had better functional improvement and health related quality of life.

**Major comments**

The main problems of this paper are the lack of hypothesis and the marked differences between thrombolytic and usual care groups. The former rendered the paper difficult to follow and the latter the findings difficult to interpret.

The authors have to state clearly what the primary outcome and the secondary outcomes are, and justify why the thrombolytic and control groups should be different.

**Minor comments**

It is not explained why the stroke patients at University Medical Centre, who did not have thrombolysis, were not recruited as control subjects. The set up and the usual clinical care of stroke patients in the two hospitals should be described.

Length of hospital stay for the stroke episode should be given if available.

The analysis of the associations between HRQOL and mood or change in activities in Table 4 and 5 are relevant to the theme of the paper and should therefore be deleted.

I do not understand the rationale for looking for interaction effects of thrombolysis on the associations between BI and HRQOL in table 2, and on the association between change in activities with HRQOL in table 6.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests