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: 2 Date: 19 June 2012

Reviewer: Timothy Kwok

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed most of the queries and the manuscript has improved in clarity. However, I would like to have two further amendments:

1. The thrombolytic group had significantly more men than the control group, and there may be a sex difference in QOL after stroke (see reference below). It is therefore important to adjust for the influence of gender in addition to that of age and stroke severity in all statistical analysis. In the authors’ reply to the other reviewer, they indicated they did adjust for sex and living situation in the interaction rank transform ANOVA. But I do not see any description of it in statistical method or any mention of it in result. The potential confounding effect of gender should definitely be included in discussion.

2. In the last sentence of the fifth paragraph in discussion “ Being more dependent is related to diminishing daily occupation in both groups. It is important to pay attention to this in rehabilitation. “ I would like to have more elaborations on the literature on interventions that can promote leisure activities or even resumption of work in stroke patients.

Reference

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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