Reviewer's report

Title: Etiologic subtype predicts outcome in mild stroke: prospective data from a hospital stroke registry

Version: 2 Date: 9 August 2013

Reviewer: Jukka Putaala

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

ABSTRACT:
- Define the primary outcome "death/disability".
- "at the end of 3rd month" could be better as "at 3 months".
- Describe covariates the logistic regression was adjusted for.
- Results section needs rewording for clarity. E.g. sentence "Of the eligible patients,..." is ambiguous.
- Sentences "3.8% ... ... received intravenous thrombolysis." is better placed after the 3rd sentence of the results.
- Consider presenting only significant results in the abstract. So, the last statement "Large-artery..." can be omitted.
- Exact etiologic subtype is seldom clear when deciding whether or not to use reperfusion therapies. Therefore, only the first part of the conclusion makes sense.

BACKGROUND:

METHODS:
- The primary outcome measure, "poor outcome". may be better defined simply as "death or disability (mRS >2) at 3 months".
- Details of logistic regression should be provided.

RESULTS
- Why were patients with other causes and undetermined stroke etiology excluded? Justification for this should be given in the methods.

DISCUSSION
- Early recurrence may account for a significant portion of the poor outcome seen in mild stroke patients. This should be discussed more thoroughly.
- Mild stroke and IV-thrombolysis, see reference above.
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None.