Reviewer's report

Title: Ischemic stroke incidence in Santa Coloma de Gramenet (ISISCOG), Spain. A community-based study.

Version: 1 Date: 17 September 2007

Reviewer: marzia baldereschi

Reviewer's report:

General
The paper is well-designed as for methods, with a remarkable effort to collect all the stroke events in the community. Major underestimation of stroke incidence is unlikely. Methods and results are clearly described.

---------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Authors should better describe and discuss the age-distribution of incidence as well as of case-fatality and disability.
2. Study methods include a 90 days follow-up examination of survivors: authors should detail the lost to follow-up.
3. Authors should better discuss the possible explanation why their results are at variance with the two Spanish previous studies (Jover-Saenz et al, 1999; Lopez-Pousa et al, 1995).
4. Authors should discuss the limitations of their study (e.g., control CT scan was performed only in the 56% of patients, etc.).

---------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. In the abstract. Results section: last sentence, disability rate should refer to survivors (not to patients in general).
2. In the abstract. Conclusions section: authors should say that rates are "lower than..." instead of "low".
3. In Background: use the term "developed" instead of "industrial" countries.
4. In Background: use the term "efficacy" instead of "effect" of preventive strategies.
5. In Background: use the term "sub-typing" instead of "subtype".
6. In Study area and population: use the term "population-based" instead of "based-population".
7. In Results: transthoracic is misspelled.
8. In Discussion: resources is missspelled

9. In Discussion: not-admitted is misspelled

10. In Discussion: use the term "several" instead of "multiple" factors not assessed....

11. In Table 1: in the title, authors should say age- and sex-specific attack rates.

12. In Table 2: in the title, authors should say age- and sex-specific annual incidence rates...

13. In table 3: authors should write annual incidence rate cerebral infarction; and adjusted annual incidence rate ischaemic stroke.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interest