Reviewer's report

Title: Use of manual and powered wheelchair in children with cerebral palsy: a population-based study

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Reviewer: Annet J Dallmeijer

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes the use of manual and powered wheelchair use in a large population of children and adolescents with CP. In addition, the level of independence in using the wheelchair is described. Although the topic of this paper is a relevant and important issue to consider in CP treatment and data are collected in an impressive number of subjects, the information that is presented in this paper is in my opinion not suitable for publication.

First, data are limited to a description of type and mode of wheelchair use and lack an association with an indept measure of independence in mobility or participation. The description of the answers to the two questions that were used in this study (whether participants use a manual or powered wheelchair and whether they propel the wheelchair independently) are insufficient to support the conclusion of the study that manual and powered wheelchairs should be considered at an early age for all children with impaired walking ability. It remains unclear to what extend the answer to these questions reflects the actual performance in daily life. Consequently, the main conclusion and suggestions that are made throughout the paper about the influence of powered (independent) mobility seems rather based on theoretical considerations than on the results presented in this study.

Second, results are not adequately presented. A lot of descriptive information is presented in the text and figures. Wheelchair use and independence are related to different patient characteristics separately. This raises the question why the authors did not perform a multivariate analyses. Results of the statistics are limited to p-values and it is not clear which test was used for which variables. Furthermore, the numbers that are described in the test do no correspond to the numbers presented in Table 2 and 3. Table 2 and 3 present a combination of powered (horizontally presented) and manual (vertically presented) wheelchair information, which is not clear from the current presentation.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 interests