Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Use of manual and powered wheelchair in children with cerebral palsy: a cross-sectional study

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 21 July 2010

**Reviewer:** Marjolijn Ketelaar

**Reviewer’s report:**

The manuscript has improved substantially. A research question has been added, making the purpose of the paper much clearer. The number of figures has been reduced substantially, and age has been categorized, both improving the clarity of the results.

However, I still have some questions and comments, mostly related to the results, which are still not yet completely clear.

Maybe I misunderstand the figures, but I get somewhat confused of the percentages in the text compared to the figures. Are the percentages in the figures the percentages of children for each GMFCS level? Thus, adding up to 100% if the children not using a wheelchair would be added?

To clarify my confusion:

At page 8 you describe “of the wheelchair users at level IV 39% maneuvered their wheelchairs independently while 61% were pushed by an adult. When I look at figure 1 I see about 43% children with some form of self-mobility (and not 61%), and about 83%-43% = 40% Attendant operated. At the same page you describe that all children at level V require assistance. In Fig 1 I see about 85%.

The same confusion for the percentage of the dyskinetic children that were pushed outdoors (page 9). You describe it as 80%. From fig 2 I see about 75%-10% = 65% attendant operated.

Please help me out.

Minor comment: at page 4 you added a sentence on the role of the environment. Please look very carefully to the definitions in the Holsbeeke-paper. In fact, the physical environment is important in both capability as well as in performance. Environmental factors can play a role in the discrepancy between capacities (standardized controlled environment) and capabilities or performance (both daily, natural environment). To understand differences between capabilities and performance, it is not the influence of the physical environment, it is the influence of the social environment (e.g., parents) and personal factors such as motivation and choices of the child.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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