Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of the kangaroo position on the electromyographic activity of preterm children: a cohort study.

Version: 1 Date: 21 January 2013

Reviewer: David Paul

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:
• The abbreviation PTNB is not standard. Please remove from the manuscript.
• Please define the use of the term “The Program” in the introduction.
• Please define the abbreviation SEMG in the introduction.
• Methods should better define exclusions. Example: how do the authors define congenital infection.
• The limitations section of the Discussion should be expanded. Please include some language to indicate that the findings may not be generalizable to smaller, less mature, preterm infants or shorter duration of kangaroo positioning.
• The horizontal axis on figure 1 should be labeled to indicate post-natal or post-menstrual weeks.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
• Please better define the study population. The methods indicate that the “study covered” infants 27-34 weeks gestation. Does this mean that infants were enrolled only if they were in this range of gestation or that the study sample included enrolled infants in this gestation? Why were infants < 27 weeks not included?
• Authors should describe how many families were approached, how many denied consent, how many were excluded and reasons for exclusion.
• Analysis was done to look at the confounding of postnatal age on RMS. Please indicate whether other factors such as gestational age, birthweight, Apgar scores, feeding, illness severity had an effect on RMS or RMS time0?
• The methods should further describe the Kangaroo unit. Who is eligible for this unit? What other services are part of this program which may have affected the results?
• Please indicate how the sample size was determined?
• Please proof read the manuscript carefully. There are remaining typos that need to be corrected. Example: alternations rather than alterations in the final sentence of the manuscript.

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests.