Reviewer's report

Title: Effectiveness of physical therapy interventions for children with cerebral palsy: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 1 February 2008

Reviewer: Jan Willem W Gorter

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written paper. It is a systematic review on the effectiveness of physical therapy for children (age up to 20 years) with CP. A limitation is that only RCT's are included, not CCT's, published between 1990 to February 2007.

I have some questions:
- I was surprised that in the results one article published before 1990 was included (p7) 'to complete the data'. What was the reason to change the set up of the study?
- The authors say that trials providing adjuncts to PT were excluded (p5) but in the results section (p8) trials are presented with children who had had surgery or botulinum toxin treatment. Please explain.
- Reference 1 is OK, but Rosenbaum 2007 would be a more up to date reference to define CP

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'