Reviewer's report

Title: The incidence of all stroke and stroke subtype in the United Kingdom, 1985 to 2008: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 18 June 2010

Reviewer: Craig Anderson

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is a systematic review of incidence and mortality rates for stroke in the UK, with reasonably rigorous inclusion criteria of population-based study design being used, so that only 5 studies were reported and show a near north-south gradient in both sets of rates. The design is robust, and the data are well presented and reported. My comments are minor:

1) as incidence is a rate, it is not necessary to use the term 'incidence rate' but rather one or the other
2) although a comment has been made, it is not clear to me why the first Oxfordshire Community Stroke Project was not included, and particularly given that it was also reported in the Rothwell paper cited for the included second phase? This seems strange when only the South London study was included for temporal trends analysis.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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