Reviewer’s report

Title: Stroke in urban and rural populations in north-east Bulgaria: incidence and case fatality findings from a 'hot pursuit' study

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Reviewer: Dr Thomas Truelsen

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept without revision

The manuscript is much improved. In the present version the presentation of methods, results, figures and tables is fine. Also the Discussion now includes important references as well as a satisfactory discussion of the results. Also, I find that the authors have answered my previous criticisms.

I made a few minor comments while reading the paper that the authors might want to consider to include:

State clearly the main hypothesis in the Abstract, "background".
Earlier reference to source for the mortality rates in Introduction p.4.
Reference to the smoking pattern, Introduction p.4.
Reference to study showing that a substantial proportion of stroke cases were known not to receive specialist attention, Materials and methods p. 5.
References to the paragraph on risk factors in Discussion p. 16.

Competing interests:

None declared.