**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Amsterdam Wrist Rules, A Clinical Decision Aid

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 15 June 2011

**Reviewer:** Peter Tugwell

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**GENERAL ISSUES TO NOTE:**

This protocol is timely, much needed and very well done. It will be a sound addition to scientific knowledge.

1. **Will the study design adequately test the hypothesis?**

   We think so.

   They have used appropriate methodological standards similar to designs used in other studies e.g. clinical decision rule for the use of radiography in acute ankle injuries.

   They have adhered to the methods section of the STROBE statement checklist:
   i) they indicated the study's design in the abstract as observational but could specify the type - cohort.
   ii) They explained the scientific background and rationale for the investigation
   iii) They have stated specific objectives
   iv) They presented key elements of the study design
   v) They described the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, and data collection
   vi) They provided the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants.

2. **Are sufficient details provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses: if not, what is missing?**

   Yes but in addition, we would suggest the following as Discretionary Revisions:
   i) Two blinded and independent assessment of the radiographs with inter-observer agreement calculated.
   ii) That they include age in the patient information in the case report form (CRF)
   iii) We wonder if adding another item in the CRF re the physician's decision to refer the patient for radiography would be a plus in the comparison with related analyses.

3. **Is the planned statistical analysis appropriate?**

   Yes.
4. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes. Found few typographical errors (Minor Essential Revisions):

METHODS/DESIGN:
Under Study population - the first sentence:
The study population is defined as all consecutive adult patients presenting at the
Emergency Departments in the participating hospitals following wrist trauma and
are suspected to have sustained a distal radius fracture and who are send for
X-ray. REPLACE 'SEND' WITH 'SENT'.

Under Sample size - the sixth sentence:
In the non-academic teaching hospital hospital, this figure was even higher: 2300
in one year. HOSPITAL IS REPEATED.

Under Study procedures - second paragraph, fourth sentence:
The method of data collection in the second stage will be similar to the first, and
consequently nothing will change for either patient or physician. REPLACE 'OF'
WITH 'OR'.

DISCUSSION:
Second paragraph, last sentence:
Any comments on this approach can by invalidated by stating that patients, for
whom no radiography is required according to their physician, are not suspected
of having a distal radius fracture and thus are not part of our domain. REPLACE
'BY' WITH 'BE'.