Reviewer’s report

Title: The effectiveness of very early rehabilitation for acute ischaemic stroke patients in Japan: a nationwide retrospective cohort survey

Version: 2 Date: 5 July 2010

Reviewer: Michael Leathley

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for sending me the revised version of this manuscript.

On the whole, the authors’ have answered the original comments. There is still one change that should be made.

The word effectiveness is still in the title, I would prefer it if this could be altered to something along the lines of “An exploration of the association between very early rehabilitation and outcome for ...” particularly because this is how the aim is written in the second sentence of the Background.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'