Reviewer’s report

Title: Process skill rather than motor skill seems to be a predictor of costs for a stroke patient in working age from a rehabilitation clinic; a longitudinal study with a 1 year follow up post discharge.

Version: 1 Date: 17 November 2006

Reviewer: Lalit Kalra

Reviewer’s report:

General
The paper is interesting and examines the total costs of stroke in the first year of follow-up. The costings have been undertaken painstakingly and a societal model has been used. Furthermore, the determinants contributing most to the costs of care have been analysed.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None suggested

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
The authors need to make the point that these costs may vary with stroke severity, geography and healthcare systems.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The study will benefit by undertaking Markov modelling of costs over 5 and 10 years as these are young patients and costs outcomes may differ significantly with long-term perspectives. A sensitivity analysis, with various assumptions of care input would also be helpful

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'