Reviewer's report

**Title:** Comparing patient characteristics and treatment processes in patients receiving physical therapy in the United States, Israel and the Netherlands. Cross sectional analyses of data from three clinical databases

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 12 May 2008

**Reviewer:** Jonathan Hill

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting article which will be of interest to physical therapists internationally. The study objectives and methods are clearly stated and conducted and the study benefits from large numbers of patients. The authors deserve congratulating.

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

1. The interchangeable use of the database names and country names is confusing. It would be best to use country names wherever possible.

2. The use of the work 'acuity' is a little odd and would be better replaced with the phrase 'episode duration'.

3. Tables 2-5 need to make clear which values are percentages.

**Discretionary Revisions:**

4. The discussion could be improved if a paragraph was added providing clear recommendations for the future which emerge following this research.

5. Table 6 could be improved in a comparison of number of treatments per country was also presented, as the information provided at present about why differences exist - is unlikely to mean much to clinical readers.

**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