Reviewer's report

Title: Automated real time text messaging identifying acute stroke patients for clinical trials

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Reviewer: Michael Brainin

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This is an interesting report on a time saving procedure for randomizing patients in acute stroke trials at 3 different locations.

The paper is not easy to read and should be improved by style.

The title is a little misleading because it could also imply identification of aphasic patients, maybe it should read 'as a means for rapidly indentifying...'

Unfortunately, no control group is included, therefore the results can not be generalized. Strictly speaking, the success of this procedure is not proven at all. This should be clearly conceded in the abstract and text.

If 500 pts are randomized for clinical trials the authors should denote for which types of trials (interventional, other therapy, or simple registry)

Ethics committee vote should be included.

The reader would maybe appreciate more information about the 3 campuses, such as a more detailed geographic description and the number of pts seen at each campus.

In the discussion, the authors mention that 'delays by more than 60 minutes. after patient’s admission to hospital are not acceptable'. When making such categorical statements, it is recommended to have this substantiated by a scientific publication or a guideline.