Title: Mobilization after thrombolysis (rtPA) within 24 hours of acute stroke: What factors influence inclusion of patients in A Very Early Rehabilitation Trial (AVERT)? A retrospective audit.

Version: 1 Date: 28 May 2014

Reviewer: Elizabeth Lynch

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary revisions

Background: second paragraph is using early rehabilitation and early mobilization interchangeably - might be worth detailing if these are actually the same thing

"The initiation of rehab has been suggested to prevent and treat secondary complications" - I can't see anything in the reference cited talking about treatment of secondary complications

Last sentence of paragraph 3: we really know little about what influences these decisions in every day practice - I think this should be reworded as it seems to negate the start of paragraph describing the study of Ha et al. In this paragraph replace ; with , between factors

Methods: Last paragraph: Factors shown to be sig diff between groups in invariable analysis (should this be univariable) where (were) then included in multiple logistic regression - did this happen? Doesn't look like it was required as so few things were different between groups

Results: 3rd paragraph I found difficult to understand and needed to read a number of times to understand- would be easier to understand the data if presented in a table

Paragraph commencing In our previous study [17], last sentence - none of the explored complications were different between included (patients) and eligible but not included patients

Description of AVERT at 44 hospitals might fit better in Background

Authors contribution: haven't put in TLs contribution

Were data collected re why potential AVERT participants weren't recruited - eg numbers who were approached and said no/medical didn't approve/got missed as admitted on weeekend etc? If available, that would be worth discussing

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 I have no competing interests