Reviewer's report

Title: Subcortical White Matter Infarcts Predict of 1-year Outcome of Fatigue in Stroke

Version: 2 Date: 22 September 2014

Reviewer: Halvor Naess

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The objective of this paper is to study factors associated with recovering from post stroke fatigue (PSF). This is topic is important and little studied. I have som comments.

1. The main finding was an association between subcortical white matter infarcts (SWMI) and not remitting from PSF. The definition of SWMI in the methods is not clear to me. Patients with SWMI often suffer from acute infarctions of the gray matter as well. How did you deal with patients with infarction in both white and gray matter?

2. In the multivariate analysis (table 3) I recommend that you include age, sex and severity of stroke (mRS or NIHSS) even if the p-value>.05. It could be that SWMI s are markers of large infarctions? Or higher age?

Minor comments

1. Line 73 and 76: infarcts and the risk of PSF. I think you mean infarct location and the risk of PSF.

2. In the method is should be stated clearly in the first paragraph that 3 months and 15 months follow-up were in person (if that is the case).

3. On line 108 and 110 you refer to age differences. It is confusing which groups hyou compare.

4. On line 119 you refer to NIHSS score for stroke severity. Did you use NIHSS score on admission or the highest score within the first 2 days?

5. One line 196 you write about one-year follow-up. You should write 3 months and 15 months follow-up to avoid confusion.

6. As you state in the discussion a limitation is the high loss of patients to follow-up. You started with 4,048 patients and ended up with 97 patients. It would be interesting to estimate the total number of participants in an ideal study with no loss of patients (except patients with exclusion criteria).