Reviewer's report

Title: An overview of systematic reviews on upper extremity outcome measures after stroke

Version: 2
Date: 10 January 2015

Reviewer: Thomas Platz

Reviewer's report:

This overview of systematic reviews provides a comprehensive systematic synthesis of evidence regarding the psychometric properties and clinical utility of the upper extremity outcome measures after stroke. It is well conducted, of interest for the clinical and clinical research community in stroke medicine and neurorehabilitation.

There are a few issues where the manuscript might be improved.

Methods
The concept/methodology for the assessment of “clinical utility” is not described.

Tables
Table 3. “level of evidence” - unclear.

Table 4
How was MCID for the NHPT determined?
A SDD (SRD) of 32.8 s had been determined by Hsieh et al 2009.
Two issues: A SDD of 32.8 with a much lower upper limit of the norm seems not very useful clinically; yet, it is questionable whether this estimation of the SDD for the NHPT is externally valid. It seems difficult just to state this statistic in the table without further reflection.

Figures
Figures 3 and 4 are not linked to the text; it is questionable whether they are necessary.
Figure 4: “Number of unique references” - unclear

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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.