Reviewer's report

**Title:** Short-term outcome of patients with possible transient ischemic attacks: a prospective study

**Version:** 1  
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**Reviewer:** Peter PJK Koudstaal

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting hospital-based study on the short-term prognosis of typical and less typical transient ischemic attacks. The authors report a very low risk of stroke and a moderate risk of cardiac events in atypical compared with typical TIA's.

My comments:

- the authors should clarify why they have opted to study only the short-term risk of possible TIA's, where in daily practice management is not different during and beyond the first 3 months

1. The authors conclude that "Overall, Possible TIA patients were managed and treated like TIA patients because a vascular origin of the symptoms could not be excluded". They do not explain whether their findings should challenge this commonly used strategy

2. In the Results, a specification of "TIA mimics" (migraine? hyperventilation?) would be interesting

3. Although the overall risk of vascular events in Possible TIA's is low, the few events that occurred were cardiac, confirming the earlier study of the Dutch TIA trial (1992) quoted by the authors which reported a low risk of stroke and a moderate risk of cardiac events in atypical cases. One of the explanations is that patients with atypical TIA's might harbor cardiac disease. The authors report that the present study included a standard cardiac workup in all patients. In the light of the observed higher risk of cardiac events in less typical TIA's it might be interesting to add a table describing the results of cardiac screening.

Minor suggestions:

1. the authors should replace the term "sensitive symptoms" by "sensory symptoms"

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

No