Reviewer's report

Title: Very low neighbourhood income limits participation post stroke: Preliminary evidence from a cohort study

Version: 4 Date: 17 April 2015

Reviewer: Michele BAUMANN

Reviewer's report:

The authors have responded to a majority of the reviewers' comments. However, a few comments remain to be corrected.

Major revision:

1) - Results - Paragraph 3 - Sentence 3: This result for the low-income neighborhood participants is not necessarily due to the stroke. Perhaps they always had the same lower RNLI scores and they just stayed the same. This possibility should be included in your discussion as a limitation to the research since there are no baseline scores.

Good point! Added - Finally, we did not inquire about participation in personally valued activities prior to the stroke. We do know how much of the difference in participation between the two groups predated the stroke.

*** I believe the sentence should be “…prior to the stroke, so we do not know how much of…” ***

Minor revisions:

1) - Results - Paragraph 1 - Sentence 3: You should add some relevant participant descriptive characteristics into the text.

Added - Characteristics of the participants are provided in Table 1. There were no statistically significant differences between the very low income and other income participants in terms of gender, age, living arrangements, or occupational status.

*** Curious as to why they don’t want to include some characteristics? Hiding low number of participants and female participation? ***

2) - Discussion - Paragraph 1 - Sentence 1: I would move this sentence to another place and remove the word “good”. The sentence is made up of only references. The discussion section should begin with your study outcomes. We would like to leave it in, as it frames the contribution of this study.

*** There is good evidence that very low neighbourhood income is associated with greater risk of stroke, greater risk of more severe stroke, and lower levels of care [17-19]. The work “good” is subjective. I suggest removing it.

*** Added in the role of the lack of information such as describe in :Baumann M, Le Bihan E, Chau N. (2014). Impaired functions, socioeconomic factors and dissatisfactions with services and information of patients living at home two years
after stroke. BMC Neurology 14:92-104.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance 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:**

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- NO competing interests