Reviewer's report

Title: Hypothermia in a Surgical Intensive Care Unit

Version: Date: 1 March 2005

Reviewer: Michael Diringer

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors of this manuscript reviewed data on 185 non-cardiac surgical patients to determine the incidence and factors related to post-operative hypothermia and its impact on outcome.

The project is reasonably well executed. The main difficult is that it doesn't add anything new to the literature. It does not identify any new related factors or explore the impact of a maneuver designed to prevent hypothermia. More focused outcome measures addressing the immediately post operative period may well have demonstrated an impact of hypothermia.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. There are limitations to the number of variables that can be meaningfully included in a logistic regression model. The authors appear to have exceeded those limits in this manuscript. They should list exactly which variables were entered into the model and justify that number.
2. The discussion would benefit from more interpretation of the results and suggestions for interventions that could be tested in future studies.
3. The manuscript needs careful editing for grammar.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Was the SAPS score calculated in the ICU? If so, it should not be considered as a predictor of hypothermia.
2. Were neurosurgical patients included? They often may be treated with intra-operative hypothermia.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I have received funds from Alsius Corporation in the past (they manufacture intravascular cooling devices.