Reviewer's report

Title: Personality and time delay to treatment of acute myocardial infarction.

Version: 1 Date: 16 September 2010

Reviewer: Cheuk-Kit Wong

Reviewer's report:

This article assessed in 323 patients whether personality, psychosocial factors and coping strategies could explain differences in time delay from onset of symptom of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and arrival at the hospital emergency room. The authors found no association between personality factors (i.e., extraversion, neuroticism, openness, agreeableness, conscientiousness) or depressive symptoms and time between onset of symptoms and arrival at hospital; nor any significant relationship between the patients self-reported coping strategies and time delay.

My comments are (minor essential revision):

1. PI spell out that all patients are having STEMI if this is the case. If not, a separate evaluation for STEMI and non-STEMI is needed.

2. Acknowledge other factors that could had heavily influenced the "time to presentation" such as family support - ie who called the emergency service? why late presentation - ie could it be due to false reassurance from an appointment to see the family doctor, for example? The latter is particualrly relevant for those in quartile 4 of time to presentation.

I think the following article "Wong CK, Tang EW, Herbison P, Birmingham B, Barclay L, Fu S. Pre-existent depression in the 2 weeks before an acute coronary syndrome can be associated with delayed presentation of the heart attack. QJM-An International Journal of Medicine 2008; 101:137-144" contains relevant information and should be discussed in the paper.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'