Reviewer's report

**Title:** The effect of cardiac rehabilitation on anxiety and depression in patients undergoing cardiac bypass graft surgery in Iran

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 23 June 2011

**Reviewer:** Angele McGrady

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a study of an 8 session cardiac rehabilitation program on measures of anxiety and depression in patients who had coronary artery bypass grafting. This is an interesting area of research and very relevant to the field of psychocardiology.

1a. Compulsory Revisions: description of cardiac rehabilitation must be clarified. How can rehab begin before the patient has had surgery? How much actual time is spent in rehab? How much exercise time? How is intensity of exercise determined? What are criteria for completion or does everybody receive 8 sessions no matter their level of physical conditioning?

1b. How did you define history of mental illness which is an exclusion? Isn't depression according to a BDI score of 19 a serious depression?

1c. Table 2 must be clarified. Anxiety and Depression are actually anxiety and depression scores. I don't understand "19/5 +-4/54" listed under "SD +-Mean"

1d. In discussion, it states that mean anxiety level declined to 20%. Yet table 2 shows scores, not percents.

1e. Authors mention "stress" in the results section. How was this variable measured?

**Minor Essential Revisions**

2a. Abstract repeats line 3 later in methods

2b. State anxiety and depression scores in abstract

2c. Background: 3rd paragraph: sentences giving % of patients are not clear. What is the number of patients in these studies?

2d. 3rd paragraph: what does "potential hazards" mean? Please clarify.

2e. End of methods section, last paragraph: Clarify these two sentences. Why would a patient need immediate rehab?

2f. Discussion: 2nd paragraph, last line: the meaning of "reduction in depression was lower.." is not clear. Do you mean lower scores, lower percents or ??

**Discretionary Revisions**

3a. Discussion, last paragraph. How was rehab conducted at home?
**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:**

I declare that I have no competing interests