Reviewer's report

**Title:** Patient perspective on the management of atrial fibrillation in Europe

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 22 August 2013

**Reviewer:** Carl J Lombard

**Reviewer’s report:**

From a study design perspective this is a stratified sample with simple random sampling being done within stratum which are made up of the five countries. The sample size for the study was an ad hoc / pragmatic one. This the authors did not consider the precision they would require at the country level for estimates of specific characteristics. From the description in the statistical analysis they also planned to do between country comparisons but this was also not considered in planning the sample size to ensure adequate power for detecting a specific level of differences between and two countries. They should add an ad hoc statement about the precision and power for the study to inform the reader.

Overall estimates of the survey is reported such as the 44.7% which thought that their health system worked very well on p8 and the 85.5% who rated the quality of care as good. These estimates are a simple combination of the separate countries and no weighting is considered to adjust for the underlying differences in prevalence of AF in each country. To obtain an unbiased estimate some population based weighting should be done. For all analysis done with respect to associations and differences a proper survey based analysis should be done.

Estimates should be reported together with 95% confidence intervals. Difference between countries should be tested using and survey based anova or chi-squared tests.

In the discussion a heading is given of Factors affecting patient satisfaction. The factors discussion in this section have not been formally evaluated and the inference is based on the descriptive data only. This inference can be done with the outcome being the ordinal measure of satisfaction and then investigating the important risk factors adjusting for demographic differences and country effects.

A schematic outline of the components of patient satisfaction is given in Figure 1. No analysis has been attempted to get a index of satisfaction across all the domains. One thinks of an approach such as correspondence analysis to extract a single dimension for analysis.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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'