**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Sinus Versus Nonsinus Tachycardia in the Emergency Department: Importance of Age and Heart Rate

**Authors:**
- Duane S Pinto (dpinto@caregroup.harvard.edu)
- Kalon KL Ho (kho@hcri.harvard.edu)
- Peter J Zimetbaum (pzimetba@caregroup.harvard.edu)
- Alexander Pedan (alex@clinepi.bwh.harvard.edu)
- Ary L Goldberger (agoldber@caregroup.harvard.edu)

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 9 Jun 2003

**Reviewer:** JANET M MCCOMB

**Level of interest:** A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

**Advice on publication:** Accept after discretionary revisions

This study is an interesting one which defines the cardiac rhythm in 500 consecutive unselected patients presenting to the emergency room. I am disappointed that the authors have not included the rhythm diagnosis made by the medical staff at the time of the ER attendance, as they have not presented any evidence that a scoring system would add anything to clinical diagnosis. I suspect this cannot be addressed at this time.

**suggested revisions**

there is little in table 1 in addition to that noted in the text in page 4 paragraph 3 - could table 1 be omitted?

Would a 2(or 3) x2 table be helpful, as I find the points allocated in table 2 rather unwieldy - an intern in an ER would not be able to recall the scoring system readily

eg heart rate <140 >140 age

**Competing interests:**

None declared.