Reviewer's report

Title: A new scoring system to stratify risk in unstable angina.

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Reviewer: J. C. Kaski

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

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This study represents a valuable attempt to identify a risk stratification system that can be applied to "real life" UA patients. The study has been well conducted and the conclusions are sound and supported by the data presented in the manuscript. There however some issues that need clarification:

Compulsory revisions
1. The technique used for the validation of the scoring system is acceptable. The number of patients, however, is relatively small and therefore larger studies may be required to further validate the conclusions of the present study. This should be mentioned in the Discussion section.
2. The authors refer to the TIMI Risk Score and claim that the currently proposed scoring system may have advantages. As no direct comparisons have been carried out between these systems it may be more appropriate to discuss the potential advantages of the current scoring system without assuming that these make the proposed score a better alternative.
3. The findings of the PEPA Study Group regarding a new scoring system, recently published in Medicine needs to be discussed.

Discretionary revision
It would be of interest to perform a head to head comparison of the TIMI risk score, the PEPA scoring system and the score currently proposed by the authors in a large cohort of unselected patients

Competing interests:

None declared.