Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Erik Diderholm

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

Advice on publication: Other (see below)

The manuscript is essential for risk stratification in patients with unstable angina. As pointed out by the authors only a few studies have focused on risk stratification in relation to the combination of different risk factors. The methods are well described and the manuscript is well written. It presents an alternative risk model to the TIMI risk score and could have a clinical impact in the management of patients with unstable angina.

The authors have provided appropriate answers or performed changes in the manuscript to most of my previous remarks. I now only have minor remarks, see below.

General remarks:

I still believe the method to merge the patients in the score development phase with the patients in the validation phase is not statistically correct. However, I would prefer to have this statement validated by people with more knowledge about statistics.

Specific remarks:

The disadvantage to use a rather high cut-off level for troponin (i.e. some "high-risk" patients with troponin T 0.01-0.1 will not be recorded) should be addressed in the limitations.

The previous remark about the prospective validation of the TIMI score has been adjusted. However, the authors compare the two scores and the present sentence somewhat misleads the reader. I think the reader should be informed that the TIMI-score has been validated prospectively (although in an interventional trial, but in the non-invasive group).

Competing interests:
None declared.