Reviewer's report

Title: Relationship between blood pressure measurements recorded on patients' charts in family physicians' offices and subsequent 24 hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring.

Version: 1 Date: 1 October 2003

Reviewer: Gregory Lip

Reviewer's report:

General:

rather odd paper that makes some interesting points
more info needed in some sections (see below)

Minor Compulsory Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct):

1. Burden of inadequate hypertension needs to be highlighted (eg. J Hum Hypertens. 2003 Jul;17(7):455-7.)
2. more detail on type of ABPM needed eg type of machine, calibration, approved by US and British validation criteria?
3. paragraph on stats methods needed

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached):

1. A clear hypothesis needs to be stated in the abstract and the paper - surely the authors are looking at the white coat effect?
2. revision is needed with regarded to age -if systolic BP is the main thing not controlled, could this be related to age of the population? the authors should give data breakdown according to age. Overall, isolated diastolic hypertension is pretty uncommon anyway
3. did patients all have adequate/optimal drug therapy in a uniform manner? interpretation may become meaningless if care in a subgroup was suboptimal eg. poor access to clinics, low social class, etc
4. Table 1 should include drugs at baseline, comorbidity etc

Advice on publication: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests:

None