Reviewer's report

Title: Spatial variation in the management and outcomes of acute coronary syndrome

Version: Date: 15 March 2005

Reviewer: Brahmailjee Nallamothu

Reviewer's report:

General
I very much appreciate the authors' effort in addressing my earlier concerns.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1) Another explanation for the lack of association between distance and in-hospital death might be survival bias. That is, individuals in rural areas with ACS may be less likely to survive to hospitalization. Sicker patients in urban areas would be able to make it to the hospital. The inability to adjust for co-morbidities and acute presentations makes this a real possibility in this dataset. The authors should consider mentioning this in their discussion also.
2) Can the authors expand their legend for Figure 4 to include descriptions of the x, y and z axes?

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
None.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.