Reviewer's report

Title: Does Interhospital Transfer Improve Outcome of Acute Myocardial Infarction? A Propensity Score Analysis from the Cooperative Cardiovascular Study

Version: 2 Date: 20 February 2008

Reviewer: Daniela Balzi

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is of potential interest to the readers of your Journal, because it contributes to the debate about the outcome of inter-hospital transfer in acute myocardial infarction.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The methods continue to be not completely clear to me.

I suggest the authors to outline a sequence of steps in the Statistical Methods section and presenting the results of each step separately. This will help the reader and reviewer.

I think that the proper analysis for table 5 is a multivariable approach in each pre-specified subgroup, e.g. logistic regression analysis in the subgroup of diabetic patients with 30-day mortality as outcome variable, with transfer (OR to be reported in table), age, gender etc as explanatory variables. This analysis obviously differs from analysis of table 4.

In conclusion, the methods continue to be unclear to me, but it could be a lack of my statistic preparation, therefore I suggest to sent this manuscript to an expert statistician for review.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'