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: 6 February 2008

Reviewer: Jay Brophy

Reviewer's report:

The revised version is improved and easier to follow.

I have 2 remaining concerns. The most important deals with the subgroup analysis provided in Table 5. The authors establish that transferred and non-transferred patients are very different and hence the value of propensity scoring. Yet their subgroup analysis is based on the complete, unbalanced population. Any association between the subgroup variables and other confounders will lead to a biased result. I feel that the question of interaction can only be reliably addressed by including interaction terms in the restricted study population of propensity score matched individuals.

I also that discussion of why lower risk patients are transfered, when multiple trials have shown (cf SHOCK)that it is the high risk patient who benefits from transfert and increased interventionalism.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory 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, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'