Reviewer's report

Title: Rehabilitation of the nested case-control design in diagnostic research

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Reviewer: Bryan Langholz

Reviewer's report:

This is a nicely written paper that shows, quite clearly, the advantages of the nested case-control design in estimation of diagnostic research. It is well written and provides an informative example.

Specific comments:
1) There has been much work on nested case-control studies and there should be some recognition of the work done in this area. Indeed, there have been many advances in nested case-control methodology. For an overview, see


or


2) While the title is provocative, the nested case-control design has never been abandoned, at least in epidemiology research, and is not in need of rehabilitation. The focus should be on application in diagnostic test evaluation, something like: “The advantages of nested case-control designs in diagnostic research.”

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests