Reviewer's report

Title: Seasonal pattern of peptic ulcer hospitalizations: analysis of the hospital discharge data of the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy.

Version: 3 Date: 16 February 2010

Reviewer: Reimar W Thomsen

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review the revised paper. The authors have been compliant with suggestions and I feel the manuscript has improved considerably, in particular by making more clear the two different approaches of analysing total number of hospital admission vs. proportion of admissions.

I was asked by the editor to comment on the question of using a lower p-value cut-off than <0.05 because of many comparisons made. In my opinion, nothing is gained by converting the continuous p value measure into a qualitative dichotomy of 'significant' or 'non-significant', may it be <0.05 or <0.001. I would rather see the actual numerical p values, as they are displayed by the authors, and judge for myself, having in mind the number of associations tested and the inborn risk that some associations may have arisen by chance.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests