Reviewer's report

Title: Increasing incidence and mortality of infective endocarditis: a population-based study through a record-linkage system

Version: 2 Date: 8 January 2011

Reviewer: Helen Johansen

Reviewer's report:

In response to my concern that using an increasing number of years over time to identify an incident case could have an effect on the trend reported, the authors have tested the data with a constant one year wash-out and added the following to the text: “Furthermore, since the period analyzed to exclude prevalent cases increases over time (minimum = 365 days in 2000), possibly not all prevalent cases have been deleted from early study years, leading to a small underestimation of the real increase of IE incidence.”
At the end of this sentence they could add: “This effect was tested using a constant wash-out time of 365 days through the study period.”

I am happy with their reply.

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.