Reviewer's report

Title: Predicting the occurrence of embolic events in infective endocarditis: a risk score derived from 1456 episodes of endocarditis observed in the Italian Study on Endocarditis (SEI)

Version: 2 Date: 19 February 2014

Reviewer: Vincent Le Moing

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:

1- Since the objective was to predict the occurrence of embolic events, those that occurred before the diagnosis of IE should not be included in the analysis.
2- I wonder why right-sided infective endocarditis that was associated with embolism in bivariate analysis was not included in the multivariate analysis.

Minor essential revisions

3- The abstract does not explain clearly what was done. I suggest:
   - to write that your study was prospective
   - to write in the methods that a multivariate analysis of factors associated with embolism was performed using logistic regression
   - to write in the results that x independent factors were identified odds-ratios, leading to the construction of the score

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 I have no competing interests