Reviewer's report

Title: Short-term and one-year outcome of infective endocarditis in adult patients treated in a Finnish teaching hospital during 1980-2004

Version: 3 Date: 17 May 2007

Reviewer: Peter AP Wilson

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have dealt with the comments raised.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

P7 Higher patient mortality with raised creatinine probably reflected the worse general condition of these patients. Laboratory parameters: The comment in the first sentence cannot be used if in fact it was not statistically significant. At most there could be said to be a trend. Similarly on page 9 at bottom

P12 This could be more detailed – in particular CRP probably was not even measured at the start of the study

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The abbreviation ‘IE’ may be better given in full.

P6 what does ‘other valve sites’ mean? Single valves or specific valves?

In the tables bacterial names should be in italics

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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